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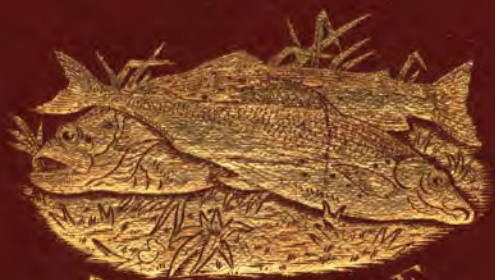
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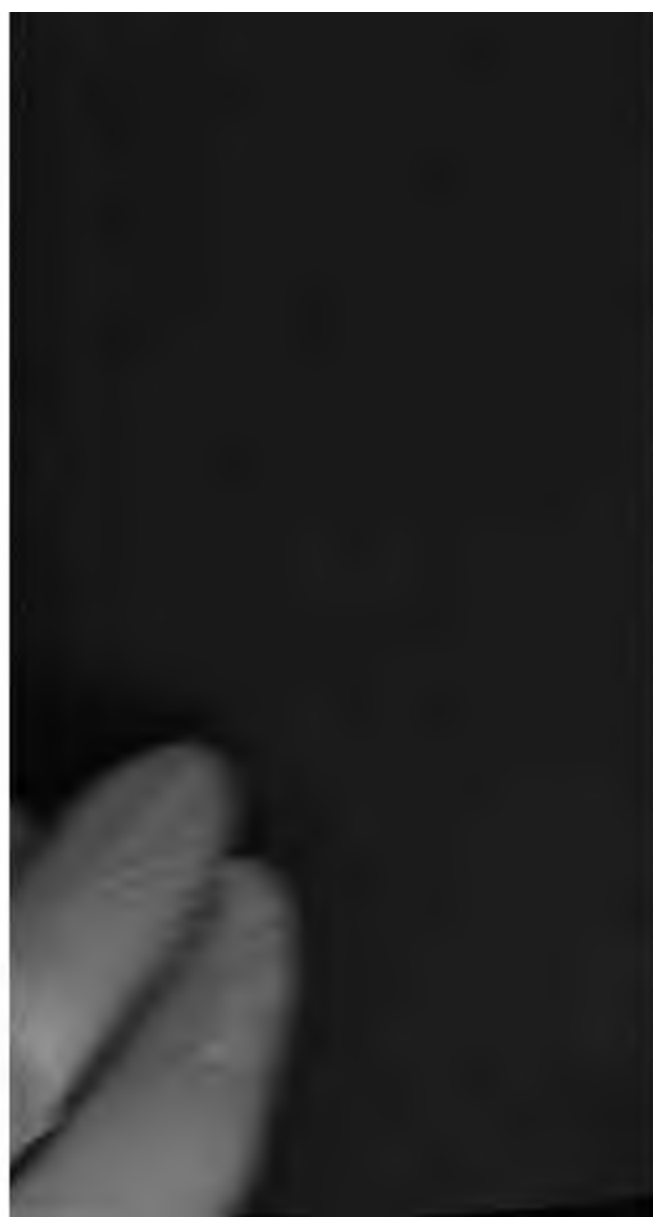
THE



RIVER'S SIDE.



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THE RIVER'S SIDE;
OR,
THE TROUT AND GRAYLING,

AND HOW TO TAKE THEM.

BY

SIR RANDAL ROBERTS, BART.



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PREFACE.

IT IS MY INTENTION, in these few pages, to give my readers the experience of many years devoted more or less to the science of fly-fishing; and in so doing, I intend confining myself to the plainest language, avoiding as much as possible all scientific names, so that the simplest disciple of the rod may easily arrive at my meaning. The doctrines which I am about to promulgate are the result of careful investigation, and attention to that vast book of Nature which is ever spread by the Almighty before each one of us, and which, in my humble opinion, raises fly-fishing above a mere amusement, stamping it, not only as a scientific, but also as a learned, pursuit.

Furthermore, as it is ridiculous to make "assertions" without being prepared to account for them by "reasons," the reader will find that, wherever I have thus asserted anything, the reason for so doing will immediately follow.

A few anecdotes connected with my theme intersperse these pages, which are founded on facts that took place in my own presence, many of the actors of which are still alive to bear witness to the truth of such statements.

Here, I sincerely trust, the tyro will find the gentle art explained; and the older sportsman may, peradventure, cull a few useful lessons; and, such as it is, I lay it before the public.

THE AUTHOR.

London, August 31, 1866.

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THE RIVER'S SIDE.

CHAPTER I.

Every lover of the art not necessarily an artist—What constitutes the angler—Mr. Francis Francis—Various kinds of fly-fishing—Trout-fishing at home and abroad.

HOLD IT as an absurd and ridiculous idea to suppose, because a man is fond of fishing, that therefore he is an angler. By far the larger proportion are fishermen, but very few, comparatively speaking, are anglers. To be an angler requires—like hunting, shooting, cricket, or any other sport—a *natural talent*, and that natural talent is born in the individual, no amount of application being ever able to produce it. How many men does one see riding to hounds who are bad horsemen, yet they get along, and enjoy themselves; how many men go out shooting day after day, and come home quite contented provided they have killed their two or three brace

of birds, never taking into consideration the immense amount of misses, or the number of birds that have gone crippled away to die under a hedge and breed vermin; how many men are anxious to don "flannels," and, bat in hand, go in only to be bowled "first ball," yet they return to the pavilion perfectly happy and satisfied. Now one has seen these sort of men for twenty years at the same things, but they never advance one iota in improvement, for the simple reason that they were not born to be horsemen, shots, or cricketers; so, in like manner, I say must one be born an angler. In addition to this, I always very much doubted whether such men really enjoyed what they professed; for to be able to enjoy a thing it is necessary to be able to do that thing, let me say, at least *moderately* well. It must be very galling for a man of ten stone seven pounds on a rattling thorough-bred horse to see himself left behind by a man of fourteen stone riding an inferior animal. I never could endure walking alongside of a man who was a really good shot, on one of my bad days as I called them, and have my *eye wiped* two or three

times ; and as to being " bowled " by a slow half volley, which anyone else would have hit for six, it is positively heart-breaking. And yet I do not say but that many men cut a very respectable figure at the river's side by a strict attention to the hints of others. One thing, however, is certain, that these men have no resources in themselves, and that when the usual orthodox plans which they have been in the habit of adopting with various success fail, they take their rods to pieces and go home. On the other hand, the true angler likes to find himself in a position in which his art and skill are put to the test ; he then glories in each fish that he brings to his basket. I have stood on the banks of a stream and watched a man, with all the newest apparatus and the most approved tackle, to say nothing of a cast of flies that were *sure to kill*, thrashing away at a stream for an hour together. When tired and, as he calls it, out of luck, he packs up his traps and goes home ; and yet, a few moments after, a professional, with his homemade rod, his rough winch, but exquisite line and flies, comes down and fills his

basket. And why is this? Because the one is a born artist, the other is only a fisherman from example or fashion, if I may make use of the terms.

Let me, then, briefly glance at a few of the qualifications requisite in the character of an angler. First, he must have "patience;" next to which, keen observation; then, a quick eye and strong wrist, with apt fingers; he must be a profound thinker, something of a naturalist, and, lastly, a lover of nature.

The old copy-book line of "Patience is a virtue" was never more truthfully illustrated than in angling; and he who has not this attribute will do but poorly. Keen observation is an absolute ingredient in the character of an angler, inasmuch as it is by such observation that he can alone hope to learn the habits of the fish whom he seeks to allure, and the manifold wonders of the insect world. The three next things are necessary to the manipulation of the art more than anything else, and with the two former characteristics constitute a whole which, in my humble opinion, is the root of all angling success. In addition to this, the true angler is most

unselfish, open-hearted, cheerful, and a pleasant companion ; his knowledge is gained from constant contact with nature and practical experience, which no amount of book-learning on such subjects can produce. I know many such men, whose characters and talents make them ornaments of the society in which they move. Nor can I here refrain from paying my humble meed of praise to a gentleman who by his energy and talent, his perseverance and industry, his unbounded confidence in himself, and his thorough knowledge of his subject, has done more for fish and fishing than anyone since the good old days of Izak Walton—I mean Mr. Francis Francis, who is connected with, I may call it, the “angler’s paper,” *The Field*. Mr. Francis’s modesty at the outset of the acclimatisation question, as also the artificial salmon and trout hatching in England—I say his modesty—permitted another to reap the praises which should have been his, and people were content for awhile to believe in a popularity wholly gained by paternal achievements. But such very superficial knowledge could not long remain undis-

covered, even though the gift of writing in a pleasant and amusing way had hitherto covered ignorance or borrowed ideas; and Mr. Francis at length received the somewhat tardy approbation of the angling world. I may mention, too, such as Colonel Whyte, Mr. Fennel, "*Ephemera*" (the talented correspondent of *Bell's Life*), and many, many others, who are born anglers, and therefore possess more or less the attributes which I have above mentioned, loving the gentle art as true sportsmen.

I now pass on to the next portion of the subject to which this chapter is devoted; viz., the various kinds of fly-fishing that are in use in the present day; they consist of three important heads:

FLY-FISHING WITH THE ARTIFICIAL FLY;

BLOW-LINE FISHING WITH THE NATURAL FLY; and

DIPPING OR DAPPING.

Fly-fishing with the Artificial Fly.—This is the most important and the most difficult of the three heads above mentioned, as the angler is here called upon to exercise his ingenuity in counterfeiting nature by means of artificial in-

gredients, so well, and so clearly, that the artificial insect is incapable of distinction from the natural one by the fish he intends capturing. To enable him to do this, it is necessary that he should be able to tie flies, which operation is easily acquired by taking a few lessons from any professional fly-tyer. I look upon the fact of being able to tie your own flies as an absolute necessity to insure success; and I do so for various reasons, which I will here briefly state. Many men say that the tying of trout-flies is too much bother, and that for half-a-crown they can purchase a dozen from any fishing-tackle shop they come to, that they are better made, and will kill equally well. This I deny *in toto*—that is to say, as regards the latter sentence; that they may be better or more neatly made, I will not deny, but that they kill better is notoriously not the case; and why? Because fishing-tackle makers are in most cases not practical men; they know nothing of the insect they are endeavouring to represent; they are not careful as to the colours they introduce in its formation, and in all probability they never threw a fly-line in their lives.

For instance, the productions I have seen bought as imitations of that early ephemera the March Brown were as like the living insect as a blue-bottle fly or a bumble-bee; they were dressed from some established pattern in the maker's hands, and sold. I do not say that they do not catch fish; they do, but only here and there; and with such a mediocre way of doing things the real lover of fly-fishing should not rest content. Furthermore, the flies bought at a tackle-shop are often dressed, either larger or smaller than the natural insect, on gut as thick as a cart rope, and with bodies thick when they ought to be thin, and thin when they ought to be thick. I am happy to say that there are some places where you can get your flies dressed according to pattern, and where care is taken as to colour, size, &c., but the exceptions prove the rule; therefore you must be able to tie your own flies, and MIX YOUR OWN COLOURS.* The various and

* Mr. Ogden of Cheltenham, and Mr. Eaton of Stark-holmes, are the best country makers for English flies; north of the Tweed, and in Ireland are plenty; whilst Alfred Gould, Gowland and Co., and Mr. Farlow, are about the best in London.

numerous water insects which form the food of the trout require not only a knowledge of their existence, but great skill in representation. It is not necessary to know the *names* of the insects that dot the surface of our streams, to insure success. Let the angler catch one of these insects, imitate it to the best of his ability, and upon its correct representation will his success depend.

Blow-line Fishing with the Natural Fly is by no means so scientific an operation as the artificial fly-fishing, and success is mainly dependent upon the manipulation by the angler of the tackle he holds. As I intend, in another chapter, explaining this mode of fishing, I will only here add that a quick eye, a lithe wrist, and a careful observation of the movements of the natural insect upon the water, are the principal points to be attended to.

Dipping, or Dapping, is only another method of using the natural insect, where bushes and trees prevent the use of the blow-line, or when there is not sufficient breeze to use the floss silk.

Besides these above-mentioned kinds of fly-

fishing, there is a decided difference between the fishing of streams, rivers, or brooks, and the fishing of lakes and ponds; the habits of the trout varying considerably, according to the places in which he is found. As a rule I have ever found the river trout comparatively the gamest of the two, whilst the lake and pond trout has been the most difficult to take—at least in any quantity. This, of course, arises from the difference of species; and although I do not at present intend to discuss that vexed question as to the number of species of trout found in Great Britain, yet can I most confidently assert that pond trout do not thrive in rivers, and *vice versâ*.

Fly-fishing may also be used with success in the capture of coarse fish, such as chub, dace, and roach; but I am free to confess that such diversion has no allurements for me, nor do I intend to enter upon or discuss their merits or demerits, as I desire in this short pamphlet to confine myself merely to the acme of perfection in fly-fishing—viz., the capture, first, of the trout, and, secondly, of the grayling.

Fly-fishing presents many attractions and but few drawbacks, the principal feature in which latter is the great expense attendant upon the obtaining of this recreation; but since third-class tickets and cheap excursion trains are to be obtained, and by the payment of a few shillings trout-fishing is also to be had, much good fishing can be enjoyed even by the poorer classes of the community, although trout-fishing, like pheasant-shooting, hunting, and salmon-fishing, is more for the moneyed man. A new field is now opened up on the Continent, where extremely good fishing is to be had at a very moderate rate, especially in Rhenish Prussia, Prussian Silesia, Tuscany, and part of Russian Poland; also some portions of Switzerland and northern Italy. At the end of the book will be found a list of such rivers, and the best places to fish them from.

CHAPTER II.

Senses of hearing, seeing, and smelling in fish—Angler's equipment—Dress—The rod—The reel—The line—The basket—The landing net—Gut and casting lines.

MY readers are no doubt aware that fish are gifted with most extraordinary powers of sight; indeed, there are but three senses which are peculiar to them—at least, *acutely* peculiar—viz., the powers of sight, smell, and feeling. I have perfectly satisfied my mind that they have no powers of hearing, from various experiments which I have made, one of which I will here mention as the most conclusive proof. This experiment was suggested to me by reading Mr. Ronald's book on Fly-fishing.

At the end of my garden flowed a stream, which I rented and preserved; and immediately opposite to the tail of a heavy rush, where the water becomes more tranquil and deep, I had built a summer-house. I rarely,

if ever, fished this spot, as I liked to watch the movements of some three or four large trout who made this place their haunt. Many a time have I collected a bottleful of flies and dropped them one by one on the water, for the amusement of seeing the fish seize them. One hot afternoon I determined upon trying if the fish could be scared by any sudden noise or explosion. The door of the summer-house looked inland, whilst a window commanded the stream. By throwing flies on the surface I gradually enticed a fish of about 1½lb to the side, or close to the summer-house, and whilst it lay on the top of the water, within six inches of the bank, I ordered my servant to fire off a double-barrelled gun. The fish took not the slightest notice of the explosion, and almost immediately after rose to another fly. It is, therefore, not unnatural to suppose that since a wise Providence has denied to them the sense of hearing, as unnecessary to their place of habitation, He has proportionately increased their acuteness of seeing, smelling, and feeling. It therefore behoves the angler, who desires to be successful in the taking of trout or

grayling, to present in his appearance as little to attract the eye of the fish as possible. (In another chapter I shall treat of the way to fish a stream in a manner the least likely to disturb the fish who inhabit it.) But, in addition to this, it is necessary that the shadow of the angler, which is sometimes unavoidably cast upon the water, should be as undemonstrative as possible. People may laugh at this and say that such precautions are fallacies and ridiculous; but I contend that one should employ every possible means necessary to obtain *complete* angling success.

First, then, the dress worn by the angler should be dark grey, or greenish grey, tweed;* the hat should be grey; and, although I have seen many inventions in the way of fishing-hats, I never saw anything better than a flexible, waterproof wide-awake. My reason for choosing the above colours is that they assimilate more with the other colours which surround the angler


* The best are to be got at Locke's, in Regent-street; and Mr. Atkinson, of 54, Brook-street, Grosvenor-square, has a wonderfully convenient pattern for fishing coats.

on the river's bank, especially when his shadow is brought against the sky. When the human form is brought to the fish's eye, reflected from a green background of trees or grass, the only colour to deceive would be green; but as it is ten times more often that the fish sees the form reflected with the sky for a background, grey or greenish grey mixtures are the best, for a decided green against the sky would appear black, or at best a very dark colour.

The Rod.—We now pass on to a very important portion of the angler's equipment—the rod; and various are the theories respecting it. I am not going to discuss what is at best a ridiculous assertion—made, however, by many—that a stiff or limber rod, or a medium one between the two, is the proper one for the angler to use. As no two men fish alike—just as there are few who fancy the same stock to their gun, from being either too crooked or bent, or too straight—so it is necessary to be guided in the purchase of a rod by the habit or use of the user. It is therefore impossible to lay down any rule upon so cosmopolitan a

subject. There are, however, other things which admit of considerable attention : first, the material of which the rod is made ; secondly, the number of joints it should contain ; and, thirdly, the proper length for a trout-fishing rod.

Before speaking of the right material for a fly-rod, I would remark that, of all the new-fangled notions that have lately been invented as a material for the making of fly-rods, cane or bamboo is the most unserviceable, from its great liability to split, and from the great care required to avoid treading upon it. I merely mention this, as these rods outwardly present a very attractive appearance. Hickory, ash, lancewood, willow, and greenheart, are all of them more or less used in the manufacture of rods. Of these, the wood that to my mind makes the best rods is greenheart, or when this is not procurable, ash. I do not approve of different sorts of wood being introduced into the manufacture of a rod—as, for instance, ash butt, the other joints hickory, and the top lancewood. The top joint of a rod must necessarily be made of two or more sorts of wood, but the other joints should be all of



the same material, for the reason that each portion of the rod, from the top joint to the butt-end, should feel the same *play* when used, which, in an instance where different woods are employed, is impossible. Supposing hickory is employed for a middle joint, the spring, from its being a tougher, closer grained, and not so pliable a wood as ash, would come from the butt or top joint. Again, if lancewood was substituted for hickory, we should also err, by having a more pliable material mixed with a tougher one. Each portion of the rod should do its work, *not one joint only*. It is impossible to fish with a rod where all the throw is in the middle or top joint; so is it equally bad to use a rod where the play comes from the butt. A sameness of material, with a due attention to tapering, will insure this. And this brings me on to the second head; viz.:

The Number of Joints a Rod should contain.
—As I have before remarked that woods of different elasticity and substance spoil the even play of a rod, so the introduction of ferrules of brass, be they ever so few, is equally

damaging. Were it possible, a rod should have *no* joints; but as this cannot be, for purposes of convenience in travelling, we must be content with this maxim, *the fewer joints the better*, and these joints *spliced* ones. I am aware that spliced joints take longer to put together, but to my mind the time that is employed in so doing is amply repaid by the greater perfection of the article. Again, a rod once put together should be as seldom as possible taken to pieces. When I go to a place to fish for any time I always leave my rod together, if I can do so with safety, until I have done fishing in the locality. The least number of joints that one can conveniently do with is three—viz., a butt, middle piece, and top joint. When travelling, a long box will insure safety, and then the rod can be made up of *two* joints, which, on the above principle, are better than three. Of course the length of these joints depends upon the length of the rod, which carries me to the third heading:

The Proper Length for a Trout Rod.—A trouting rod seldom or ever exceeds a length

of fifteen feet. This must depend, however, as I have before remarked, upon custom or habit. Some prefer a single-handed rod, or one of twelve feet, whilst others—*old professional fishermen*, men who live by it, and consequently not bad judges—always use a double-handed rod, or a rod from thirteen to fifteen feet. Let me for a moment argue this subject, since, as I said in my preface, for every *assertion* it is necessary to give a *reason*. A single-handed rod may be all very well in its way for brook-fishing, but it cannot possibly present the advantages which a double-handed rod does on large waters. In the first place, with a single-handed rod you take longer to kill your fish; in the second place, you have not so great a command over your flies; and, in the third place, you cannot keep your line out of the reach of teasels, long grass, &c., that you find on the river's bank. What is so annoying, as when you perceive a fish—perhaps a good one—rising close to the bank next to you, you make your cast and find your line caught in a teasel, and, consequently, you are unable to strike your

fish, or unloose it without scaring him? In addition to this, with a double-handed rod you are able to keep much more out of sight of the fish; you can throw a longer line, and, as I said before, kill your fish sooner. A double-handed rod is only inferior to a single-handed one in cramped places, where trees line both sides of the river, and you have to throw *under your wrist* with one hand, perhaps holding on to a bough with the other. For this, and for brook-fishing, a single-handed rod is the proper implement; but, for the reasons above stated, nothing can beat the double-handed one.

The Reel.—I now pass on to the reel. Here custom must again be the guide. Some prefer a click reel, some a noiseless one. I always use a click one, but not of bright brass; it should be *bronzed*, when the rays of the sun do not play upon it nor attract the notice of the fish. A narrow, flat reel is preferable to any other, as the line runs easier off it, and the circumference of the body of the line, when wound on it, being larger, it is less liable to kink. Great care should be taken in proportioning the size

and weight of a reel to the rod for which it is intended, or else too much weight may be put upon the butt, or *vice versâ*.

The Line.—Fly-lines have of late years been brought to great perfection, and very important is it that this portion of the paraphernalia should be carefully attended to. Fly-lines are made of horsehair, silk and hair, and plaited silk. I invariably use the latter, not from custom or habit, for I am not one of those who

“*Laudator temporis acti.*”

I live and learn—I try everything that comes before me, and am content to be guided by the somewhat homely maxim that “the proof of the pudding is in the eating.” There can be nothing so delightful as a new and improved method, provided it is a good one and has merit; no criticisms in the world will injure it, and no amount of praise will make it more valuable than it is intrinsically worth. My objection to horsehair lines is, that it is next to impossible to avoid irregularities in their manufacture, which constant or even partial use make more apparent;

ragged ends stick out here and there and catch the rings. You cannot, moreover, dress hair lines, and consequently, unless they are carefully dried after each time they are used, they rot and break. Independent of this, there is far too much *spring* or elasticity in a hair line, which is a fatal fault, especially in playing a fish. For instance, you have struck a heavy fish; perhaps he is hooked outside. If a trout, the first thing he does is to spring out of the water; a certain portion of strain is taken off the line, which, like a piece of india-rubber, springs back to its former size, giving the hook an ugly jerk, and, nine times out of ten, pulling out the hold; for, in addition to the spring on the line at such a moment, there is the bend of the rod to be considered. So much for hair lines.

Silk and hair lines have this objection, that, if not very carefully dried, the silk rots, and the hair cuts through it. Often after a hard day's toil you omit to dry your line on your return, and the mischief is at once done; but with a well-plaited, well-made silk line you have none of these drawbacks. In the first place, you can

make it waterproof by soaking it in a preparation; this, too, makes it flexible, and also prevents it kinking.* Here, again, must the thickness of the line entirely depend upon the rod, and care must be taken that it is neither too heavy nor too light. I cannot help thinking that we shall very shortly see an entirely new material for fly-lines, as even plaited silk has yet some disadvantages to be overcome.

The Basket and Landing Net.—Baskets are made of various sizes, and a basket is by far the cleanest and best receptacle for the angler's fish. Defend me from the new inventions in the shape of bags made of waterproof material! They are not only useless, but they spoil your fish, and, unless great care is taken in cleansing them, they become foul and unbearable. I always have my basket stained a dark brown, and have a stout *broad-woven band* to support it, instead of a strap, which cuts the shoulder to pieces. Do not have the basket too small, or too large;

* To a pint of common Russian train oil add a little melted gutta percha; immerse the line in it for three days, after which dry in the sun and varnish.

and you will find a cloth pocket, fastened on to the back or flat part of the basket, a useful appendage.

A landing-net is essential, especially to the fly-fisher, as he ought to angle with such fine tackle that it should be brought into use for almost every fish he takes. Here, again, must care be taken that the net should not be white, neither should it be simply stained, as the stain by frequent use comes out, and, moreover, the cord soon rots from constant wettings. The net should be soaked in a preparation, which alike preserves and colours it to a more sober tint than white cord.* Many a good fish has been lost, scared at the sight of a net bleached by the sun being (when he had one rush left in him) thrust near him. Attached to the stick of the net, near the screw-hole, should be a hook to support it, and the handle being passed between the strap of the basket and the body, and the hook placed on the strap, the net is conveniently and easily carried.

* The same preparation as for the winch line will effectually answer the purpose.

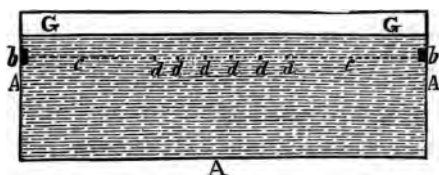
Gut and Casting Lines.—A few words on this very important subject will not be inappropriate in this chapter—the more so, as I consider that, of all things which are conducive to success in fly-fishing, none are so important *as good gut*. I am sorry to say that this article is, at the time I write, excessively difficult to procure, especially fine gut. Of drawn gut you can get plenty, but this frays out very much in the water, and is altogether an inferior article; and yet in the vast metropolis, where one is supposed to be able to buy anything, I do not know of any place that I can go to and be certain of procuring really fine, undrawn gut. The last I procured was from Mr. Brown of Aberdeen, and Messrs. Gowland of Crooked-lane, London, who took immense trouble before they could procure what I wanted. I have therefore of late taken to hair, which I find answers the purpose equally well, but requiring more care and nicety. Horsehair, when used, should be taken from the tail of a horse, as the hairs from the tail of a mare are valueless. Gut should be stained, as the original colour is useless for fly-fishing purposes, being

easy of detection in fine water. There are various recipes for dyeing gut, but I find that the greater portion of them very much injure the quality of the gut, arising from the ingredients of which these preparations are composed; whilst others, such as tea, do not possess the right shade, and are not of sufficient strength to materially change the original colour. What, then, is the natural question which suggests itself, is the best preparation for dyeing gut? A future time may, no doubt, give birth to a far superior and better preparation, but at present there is nothing to my mind so good as "dark green baize," for it gives the gut that peculiar tinge of dirty yellowish green, which makes it so difficult to detect its presence when floating on the water. Copperas stains it too bright a green and damages the gut; ink stains it too black, also spoiling the gut; chemical preparations invariably destroy its exquisite texture, absorbing or drying up its succulent matter, and making it liable to crack and split. My plan is as follows: Having selected a piece of dark green baize, of about a yard square, cut it in strips, and put it into a

pot with four pints of *cold* water ; then place it on the fire until it boils. Let it boil for twenty minutes ; then, having chosen the lengths of gut you intend staining, put them into the boiling liquor and let them remain all night, and in the morning take them out and dry them carefully in the sun, when it will be found that they possess that dirtyish yellow green that is, in my opinion, so inestimable a colour. If the reader should not be satisfied regarding its invisible qualities, let him make use of a simple experiment which occurred to me when pondering upon the question of what salmon mistook the artificial fly for, and how it appeared to them in the water.

Procure five pieces of plate glass, perfectly clear and without flaws ; join them together in the shape of a box by means of cement ; glue a piece of cork to each end, and stretch two pieces of thread from one cork to the other ; then take several lengths of gut of different colours, and lay them side by side upon the threads. Having filled the box nearly full of clean or of coloured or muddy water, as you may think fit for your experiment,

raise the box above your head, between the sky and your eye, and it will be manifest to you which is the colour which best assimilates with the water, and therefore less liable of detection by the fish. The annexed plate represents this simple contrivance. A, A, A represent the sides of the glass box; b, b, the two pieces of cork from which the threads, c, c, are stretched to support the lengths of gut represented by the



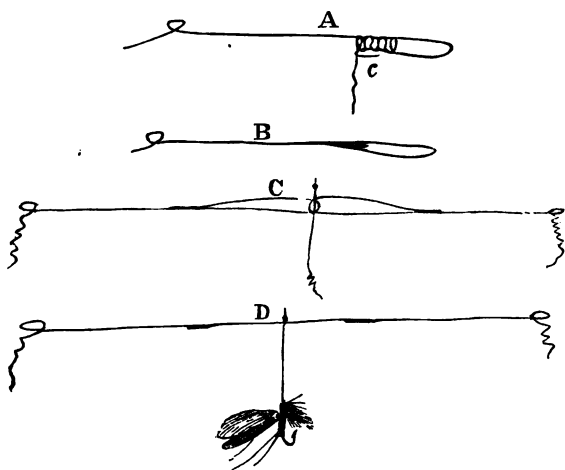
dots, *d, d, d, d, d, d*, whilst *g, g* shows the surface of the water. This is also a good way of determining the colour of your flies, as they very often present a very different shade in the water to what they do when dry. A clean glass bottle filled with water is not so good, since you see the sky through two substances instead of one.

The last thing that claims our attention in connection with gut is the casting, or, as some

people call it, the foot-line ; and a very important one it is. I make my casting-line as follows : Between the reel-line and the casting-line I have one length of double gut, one of thick gut, and the third somewhat thinner. My casting-line then commences ; it is always *three yards long*, and is gradually tapered from the head to the stretcher end, until at the end I have the *three* finest lengths of gut. *Never mix gut and hair together*, and be sure that the whole of the casting-line is of the *same colour*. I have seen lines made with a thick length and a thin length joined together, with one blue length and one black length, and then perhaps a white one—in fact, three or four colours. Variety is pleasing, and such tackle may do for a muff, but not for an artist. Furthermore, your flies should be dressed on gut of the same colour as your cast, taking care that the stretcher flies are tied upon the finest lengths, the middle fly upon somewhat coarser, and the bob fly—for I never fish with more than three flies—on a still thicker length, so that each fly may assimilate with the substance of gut that it is brought into contact with upon

the casting-line. The bob fly should be invariably the strongest link, as this fly in fishing is frequently not on the water, but hangs a little over it, and I have seen fish spring up and snatch at it, thereby endangering the tackle.

I join my casting-lines in the following manner: Having selected the longest links, I tie



them together with a single knot, except at the joinings, where the drop flies hang. In such places I make the following arrangement: To either end of the links I propose joining together

I make a small loop; my loop is made *without a knot*, and is whipped with the finest tying silk. It is made as the foregoing diagram will better show than any written explanation. Fig. A shows the link with the whipping of silk; the end, c, being turned back and whipped over, prevents it from slipping; B is the length with the loop complete; c is the two loops joined, and D is the length with the fly attached. The loops on fine gut are anything but clumsy, and strengthen your cast at the place it most needs it; the fly never slips, and can immediately be changed without hurting your nails or making use of a pin, as you must do where knots are employed, all of which takes time, which is of value, especially when the fish are on the rise. I have used this plan for many years, and until I can hear of something better I shall not only keep to it, but recommend it to my brothers of the rod.

CHAPTER III.

The river's bank—Some of the habits of trout and grayling—Choice of flies—Wading—How to fish a stream—Something about striking, playing, and landing your fish.

GOODLY and beautiful are the pictures which Nature, ever lavish of her gifts, spreads before our eyes in the varying landscapes of our native land. I have visited the lofty ranges of Hindustan, have wet my line in the sluggish streams that flow through her rich alluvial vales. I have wandered with my gun on the banks of Africa's noble streams; the sunny south of Europe, France and Italy, with their manifold temptations to the sportsman, have been explored by me with the restless, changing foot which characterises the British sportsman. Away to the North, where Norway's snow-clad hills and iron-bound coast chill one to the marrow—to Russia's vast steppes, and along her Baltic coast-line to Stettin, Westphalia,

Saxony, Prussian Silesia, and the German States, have all from me had due attention, and many a fish have I lured from the depths of their rocky streams; but go where I will, let the sport be ever so good, it has no charms for me like that of the streams, the lakes, the rivers, and the moors of our lovely island home. Alas! these pages are too scant to permit me to enlarge upon my subject. I must stick to the dry portion of the gentle art, nor dare to enlarge the limits which I have prescribed for myself.

I approach the subject of this chapter with considerable caution, the more so as I differ very essentially in many points from some of the leading authorities of the day, such as "Ephemera," "Ronald," "Stewart," &c. I do not for one moment pretend to say that the principles which they advocate are *wrong*—far from it; I simply adopt a different method, and, if I may be permitted to say so, I arrive at a better result. To the tyro, the remarks I am about to make may seem to differ but little in point of fact from other rules already widely promulgated; but to the experienced fly-fisher, I flatter myself my

method of fishing will in some instances afford not only a new but a more advantageous plan of pursuing his intellectual and favourite amusement. Rousseau has well said—

“ Si dans ce monde qui est si beau chaqu'un
Avaient le même idée, ce monde qui est si beau
Serait une enfer de diable.”

Having then, in my last chapter, duly equipped the angler, and taking for granted that he can throw a fly, and is not an absolute muff, let him accompany me to the river's bank, and as we go let me beguile the way by some few remarks upon the habits of trout and grayling, with which everyone should be acquainted before he can hope to take them with anything like success.


Now, how is it, I would ask, that, put two men upon a stream, both of them equipped with all the necessary paraphernalia of rods, flies, lines, &c., of the very best quality and of the very best make; both equally skilful in throwing a line, lightly and gracefully, on the water—nay, they shall fish with the same flies;—how is it, I say, that one will fill his basket, whilst the other will exhibit but a few brace, or half the number

of his more successful companion? The answer is a simple one. The one knows the habits of the fish; he knows where to look for him, and the most likely places to find him on the feed; whilst the one is thrashing away at a place where there is no chance of rising a fish, the other will pass it by and confine himself simply to those places where his experience tells him fish are on the feed and he is likely to take them, or where he knows the habits of the fish lead them to seek for food. Let us, then, glance at this all-important subject.

The limits of this volume will necessarily prevent me from entering too deeply into a subject which of itself would fill a book, nor do I propose arguing as to how many various species of trout inhabit our streams; furthermore, fish-hatching and water-culture have been of late so prominently before the public, that I may safely permit myself the conclusion that all lovers of the rod are well acquainted with their peculiarities; nor do I need to say that trout-fishing commences in March, and *ought* to end on the 30th of August. I say *ought*, as the latitude which

a month longer gives is merely an encouragement to poaching.

Some rivers are much earlier than others ; for instance, trout-fishing near London commences on Good Friday and the 1st of May, whilst fishing on the Tweed, in Derbyshire, and Devonshire, has commenced some weeks previously. One thing, however, is certain, that the month of May is the finest for the fly-fisher. Grayling spawn in March and April, and are therefore unfit for sport, although they may be easily taken, as at this period they rise ravenously at the fly. The trout, however, at this time emerges from the deep waters, where he has been recovering his strength after spawning, and rises eagerly at the fly that presents itself on the surface ; in the earlier spring months his taste is not so fastidious, and, like the human being recovering from a long sickness, his appetite is ravenous. As, however, the warmer weather brings the various species of water larvæ born on the river's bank within his reach, he begins to get more particular, and increases in strength and beauty, until the radiant month of May finds him in all his perfection.



In the earlier months of spring, such as March and April, it is next to useless to fish the flats, even should they be curled by a breeze of wind; you must confine yourself entirely to the rough streams, and then more to the throat or neck than the tail—here the fish are on the feed; or where a heavy boulder of rock, the trunk of a tree, or a large stone makes a swirl in the water, leaving a still eddy behind its sheltering mass, or where the fast flowing water has worn the bank, eating into it, and making it cast a deep and overhanging shade, there shall we find the trout waiting anxiously for his prey; and no sooner has one been killed in such a spot, than another almost immediately takes his place, reigning supreme until either killed or driven away by a larger one of his own species. As the summer advances, although he still inhabits such places in the daytime, in the morning and evening he drops down to the thin water at the tail of pools, or lies close to the bank, waiting for anything the wind may blow on to the water from it, ready however, at any moment, to dart to his shelter if scared by an unusual sight.

In hot summers, when the water is bright and low, he once more betakes himself during the daytime to deep holes, or behind sheltering banks and weeds, emerging only in the morning and evening for the flies upon the surface. But if the day be dark and warm, and a breeze curl the surface of the water, he is then to be found on the flats near the banks, in the thin water at the tail of pools, or immediately under the rush of water where it bubbles and boils under a fall.

A grayling, however, is far different; he delights in swift, rocky or sandy, and deep streams, preferring mostly the neck to the tail. He is also to be found on heavy deep flats, and affords better sport in September and October—ay, even in December—than any other part of the year. He, too, is wary, but, unlike the trout, he will rise several times even though he has been hooked, provided he does not see you.

And now we have reached the river's bank—that is to say, we stand some fifty yards from it. The tackle is here put together, all but our cast of flies; and now comes the tug of war, what

shall we put up? "Oh," I hear a man say, "*of course* the Hare's-ear Dun," or some such general favourite. Now here, let me remark, is one of the great secrets—*have no general favourite*. For some time I was not of this opinion, and I always had a certain amount of flies and a certain number of patterns, that if the fish were feeding I thought I must kill with; but soon I found that this was not sufficient, and that by attending to their peculiarities, or I may say their partialities, I killed three to the one I did before. Fish I determined to catch; and a box containing a few different silks, a few feathers, and bits of worsted, may do for a muff, but is not sufficient for an angler to imitate nature with. Now let us do this (it is the first week in May, we will say): cautiously approaching the bank, let us spend a few minutes—ay, half-an-hour, if you will—in noting the insects on the water; it is a half-hour well spent, if properly used, and will save your wasting much valuable time hereafter, by changing your flies perhaps at the moment the fish are on the rise and you ought to be at them. "Oh!" you cry, "see,

here comes the Iron Blue Dun, quite thick," and, without a moment's thought, immediately one is up on your cast; "and there is the Hare's-ear Dun—and, look! that large heavy fly is the Alder; I shall put him on for a stretcher, the others for droppers." Well, my friend, do so; and now you are ready—fish away. There are plenty of fish rising, but you will not take one. "Oh, nonsense!" you say; but I am right, and not one rewards your efforts. What is the meaning of it? It is simply this, *that all those circlets that dot the water are fish rising, but to a certain fly*. Now look at that fish lying close under yonder bank on the opposite side—he is rising; let us watch him and see *what fly he takes*, for I intend you to have him, and many more, and if you'll follow my instructions you'll succeed.

Here comes a little Iron Blue Dun over him. He makes a movement forward as if to take it, but immediately drops back again to his original place. "Flop, flop" comes a great Alder; but he moves not. What is this that comes floating down, with its light gauzy wings and yellowish body? It is the Yellow Dun. Now watch him

well ; down comes the fly, the gentle breeze just moving its transparent wings. Gradually it nears the trout we are watching, and as it comes an inch before him, a movement of the fin, a faint circle on the water, and this beautiful ephemera is hidden from our sight, the prey of his speckled enemy. Now, then, you have your stretcher. Watch this fly coming down on the water ; it is the Gravel-bed—but our friend opposite lets it pass. We will, however, keep our eye on it. Scarcely has it gone three yards farther than it is also taken. Here, then, you have your second fly ; and now for the third. Choose some favourite, if you like ; it does not much matter. Your cast is now ready, and you know that you have chosen the flies upon which the fish are feeding. You must, however, be still upon the watch, for this fancy may soon be over, and the Iron Blue Dun, or any other fly, may become an equal favourite ; or if you find that the fish take the Yellow Dun in preference to the Gravel-bed, put up two Yellow Duns, keeping your third fly still the Gravel-bed. And now recollect the fish at this time of the year only feed at certain times

and for a certain period ; for instance, look at the stream just now dotted with little circlets, not one is now to be seen ; our friend on the other side is there, but he moves not, although his favourite fly comes floating over him ; be content, they'll rise again presently, perhaps for ten or fifteen minutes, and then make good use of your time ; basket your fish as quickly as prudence will permit, and do not get your tackle entangled in your coat tails, &c. ; there is nothing so surely indicative of a bad hand or a muff as this ; in the first place, you lose precious time, and in the second place, you injure your fly in extricating it—homely maxims, I allow, but nevertheless more than true, and seldom attended to.

I have had men come up to me on the evening previous to a fishing excursion, with the question as to what flies they should use on the morrow, as if it were possible or likely that anyone, be he ever so expert, could anticipate weather, water, or the insect chosen by the speckled epicure for the next day. Other people make up their cast of flies before leaving their

homes, and if it does not kill, put up their rods and come home. Again, I have heard it said, "I never did much with the Partridge Hackle," or, "I have always killed a dish of fish with the Yellow Dun;" consequently he puts down the fly he has been unsuccessful with as bad, and the one he has happened to kill with as the *ne plus ultra*; the real cause being that the fish happened to be feeding upon the Yellow Dun the day he used it, whilst they refused the other fly only because, in all probability, they had a more attractive morsel. My maxim is this: "*Every fly is good when it is used at its proper time*;" and you must be guided in your choice of flies entirely by what you see at the river's bank. The size of a fly *does not* depend upon the size of the water, as is so often urged; this is clearly a fallacy, from the fact that insects do not get smaller or larger according to the size of the water, and a fly dressed smaller than the living insect is an untrue representation of nature. The reason that small flies are used is, that trout feed more upon the minute water larvæ at that time of the year when the water in most streams is small—

viz., in mid-summer. Be true to the *size* and *colour* of the natural fly, and you will always succeed.

And now our half-hour is spent, you are all impatience to begin; so let us commence, as the fish once more dimple the surface with their eager snouts. I am glad to see that you have a pair of waders on, as you obtain by this a great advantage; but take care not to abuse it. In the first place, if you don't walk in the water with circumspection you'll disturb the fish, and, in addition, you'll spoil the water for anyone else who may happen to fish after you; nothing is so unsportsmanlike or so selfish, let me therefore give you a few hints. It must be clear to you that the lower your head is brought to the level of the water there is less appearance to attract the notice of the fish, and your shadow makes a less demonstrative angle; therefore, cautiously approach the bank where the thin water becomes almost a scour, and step in close to the bank. Now, you do not require to walk into the middle of the stream, or even two yards from the bank—for, of course, you choose the shallowest bank, leaving the deeper side of the

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stream for your tail fly to drop on to. You can cover the other bank in most streams from where you stand. Be very careful after having made a cast where you put your foot for the next step, as a slip may cause a struggle in the water and so betray your presence; for, remember, a motion in the water causes a vibration which, with the acute sense of feeling in fish, they immediately detect. The thin water at the tail of this stream must also be approached with extreme caution at certain times of the day and year when fish are likely to be there. In wading, the foot should not be *dragged* against the stream, but *lifted out*, and put down again; the same course may be pursued in fishing a flat, if not too deep to wade. If possible, avoid all muddy places, so as not to foul the water for those behind you. Wading should be very cautiously practised in streams flowing through an alluvial soil, and whose bottoms are covered with the long waving weeds, such as are found near the metropolis, as you may so disturb the water as to ruin the cast for the rest of the day. And now you are in the water, make your first cast up the bank, if there is one, or close to the shingle next

to you. It is utterly ridiculous and absurd to suppose that I, or any other man, can give instructions as to how a line is to be thrown ; and, by following the complicated directions one reads in many books, you only succeed in putting yourself into the most excruciating positions, tire your arms and back, and come home disgusted. The throwing of a fly cannot be taught, as no two men throw it alike ; one maxim, however, must be kept in view ; viz., that the wrist, and a very little of the forearm, are the members that should perform the work, and not the whole body. After you have tried the bank near you, throw your fly up stream (if on the right bank) to three-quarters left ; the next cast half left, and the last cast opposite to you. When your flies touch the water, do not move them or humour them ; let them float quietly for a yard or two, and then draw them steadily out for another cast. Humouring flies is all nonsense, and a trout is not to be attracted by such very unnatural appearances ; the different swirls and eddies of the water communicate a sufficiently life-like appearance for the purpose. Further, remember that

the fly presents the most attractive appearance to the trout *the moment it alights on the water* ; for this reason, I advocate so many casts to cover your stream. And now you have fished up to where the water rushes so strongly that your fly is brought back to you, and you are unable to strike ; you must therefore fish opposite to you, letting your flies float downwards. To do this, you should be as close to the bank as possible. A few inches above a rising fish should always be the rule, and a couple of casts is sufficient to ascertain if your fly has found favour : it is no use *throwing any more*, you only do mischief. If you have a small portion of water to fish, let your stream rest a while and fish it again, as the fish may be off when you return in the afternoon or evening. Never confine yourself to fishing the rough streams ; pay equal attention to the still water and the flats ; many a good fish is picked up, and, moreover, these places are less fished.

And now a word as to striking your fish. This must entirely depend upon the position the point of your rod is in at the time of the rise, and the state of the water where the fish rises. In very

heavy rushes you can seldom *see* your fish rise, and this is the reason we so much more often hook a fish in such places than where the water admits of our seeing the rise; for when we see the rise we are always apt to strike too soon, whereas the tightening of the line in a heavy, rough stream tells us the hook is in his mouth, and then, with a gentle movement of the wrist, we send the hook home. Striking too slowly is, however, as bad as too quickly. I must, therefore, leave this to be decided by circumstances, always remembering that if a fish rise—no matter in what portion of the stream—the point of your rod should invariably make an *upward* motion, instead of one to the right or left. Striking down stream, *where it can be done*, is the most deadly.

In playing your fish, remember that directly a trout is hooked he *turns down stream* at once; and you should always endeavour to keep opposite to him, preventing him, as much as possible, from going up again. I have heard people designated by the name of “muff” for losing a four-pound trout in the Kennet. Now I venture

to remark that, with the tackle it is necessary to use in this river, it requires *great luck* to land a fish of that weight, and that not more than one out of every six hooked is ever brought to basket; or even a three-pounder, especially where the long banks of weed (around which they wind your cast) afford them a secure place to rush to. Never try to haul a trout out at once, or to "butt" or drown him, as some people recommend; keep an even strain, and let him run himself out. For the rest, circumstances must develope your resources; but give him as little time as you can with prudence afford. Do not have the net put near him too soon, in case an extra rush may unloose the hold. When you see a trout spring out of the water *immediately* he is hooked, you may be certain he is hooked outside; consequently you must be the more careful. Never let your fish when hooked splash about on the top of the water; be careful at once to prevent this, as, if lightly hooked, he is sure to get off. And now I leave you to fill your creel, and wish you luck.

CHAPTER IV.

The best weather for fly-fishing—The right day and the wrong—Evening and night fishing—Something about water insects.

THE atmosphere and the weather have two very powerful effects upon fly-fishing, although I do not admit that their influence is so effective as ever entirely to deprive the angler of a day's sport. Here, I am aware, I fly in the face of very potent authorities; but I do so simply from the fact that on days when others have thought it madness to dream of fishing, I have had good sport. Let me, however, for a moment, consider the question of what is good sport.

Some people, and I fear there are many, delight in the slaughter of hundreds of head of game (poor tame things brought up by hand—therefore not *game*), and revel in the delight of a couple of flunkies to load for them, and a glass of sherry ever and anon to slake their aristocratic

thirst. I am not going to say that they have not a perfect right to amuse themselves as they please by pandering to such tastes, but what I do object to is their calling a lot of tame pheasants "game," and a battue "sport." Game is the name given to those creatures whose habits are wild, who fear the approach of man, and who require all his energies, perseverance, and strength, both of mind and body, to circumvent or kill. It is very easy to net a river and take every fish out of it; but surely this is not "sport!" It is as easy to do this as to drive partridges with a hundred beaters and fire a volley into them as they come over a concealed line of guns, wounding some, and killing perhaps the same bird your neighbour fired at. If this is sport, I want none of it. What my ideas of sport may be as regards game it is not the province of these pages to relate, but, piscatorially speaking, my delight is to fish a stream where the fish are difficult to take, where the water is fine and low, where you have wind, weather, and the instincts of the fish against you; it is then that I glory in each one I take. It is no amusement to me at

every cast to take a fish ; one soon gets satiated with such mechanical amusement. I would just as soon stand at the corner of a wood and wait for the "boquet," as do this. A hard day's work and three brace of fish—good fish, of one and a half pounds to two pounds—is what I call sport. At the same time, it is of course necessary that one should fish a stream where there really are fish ; but I always think, when a man tells me he has taken fifty brace of trout, that this was unnecessary slaughter, and how many small ones there must have been amongst them.

In spring, up to the middle of the month of May, it really very little matters what sort of weather it is. A good fisherman ought always to take a dish of fish. I have had some good days' sport after a sharp white frost in the morning, when the sun has come out bright and strong without a cloud in the sky. Of course I do not mean to say that a dark day, with a warm southerly wind and occasional showers of rain, is not the best the angler can have for fly-fishing, and that an easterly wind is against the fish rising

freely ; but in the spring of the year, before the fish are satiated with surface food, no day is absolutely useless as an angling one. In mid-summer, however, when the fish are gorged with surface food, I recommend the angler to lay aside the fly, except in the morning and evening, and take to the minnow or worm, of which more hereafter. If, then, the angler has it in his power to choose his day, when he has obtained permission, on a preserve, let him wait for a dark, cloudy day, with a warm southerly wind, or for a blowing, blustering day and a westerly wind, with occasional sunshine and occasional showers ; on such days the killing of a good basket of fish is no difficult matter. When, however, the day is bright, the water fine, and white clouds in towering masses cast a glare upon the water, the angler's resources will be sorely tried ; but do not fear ; pick your moment when the dark edge of a cloud, defacing the sun, throws a sterner shade upon the water. Mark, then, the place where the fish are feeding, and be on to it like lightning. Now the cloud is swept away, and all is again bright ; but you have a fish, and the

very difficulty of the situation makes his capture ten times more enjoyable.

It is, also, always much more in the angler's favour when the river or stream he fishes in is moderately full of water. Fish do not take well when water is either rising or falling rapidly. When water rises, fish are ever on the move, especially when it becomes discoloured, or absolutely muddy; they then shift more or less, and pay no attention to surface food. When water is falling rapidly, they seem sluggish, seek the bottom, and rise but seldom at the fly; but there is a time between the two which should never be forgotten, and that is when the water is *clearing* after a flood, when it is moderately high, still retaining a tinge of colour, but is at the same time clear. In Ireland the local fishermen call it "porter colour;" in some parts of Scotland it is called "moor water;" in others, "red water." Various rivers show various colours after a flood, according to the nature of the ground where they take their rise, and the country they flow through; but there is no time so favourable to the fly-fisher as this.

Fish never stir when the air is surcharged with electricity, such as it is just before a thunder-storm; it appears entirely to paralyze them, and no bait, be it ever so tempting, will make them stir. Also, immediately after the thunder, especially if it is accompanied by heavy rain, they seem inert and lifeless as if they were expecting a flood, which would induce them to shift their positions. I have seen exceptions to this very general rule. I recollect once fishing on a large sheet of water in Westphalia, formed by the damming up of a stream for the purpose of turning the large wheel of an ironworks. The sheet of water might have been about fifteen acres, and contained some very heavy fish. In the morning, the day was bright, and my efforts had only been rewarded by one fish of 1½lb. About two o'clock a storm blew up; and no sooner did the thunder and lightning commence, than I ran a fish at almost every throw (I was minnow fishing). I then took the largest trout I ever captured; he weighed 11lb 7oz. I also took five others—the smallest 3lb and the largest 6lb 2oz. This was done between Olpe and

Seigen in Prussian Westphalia, and I fished from the bank. Again, when fishing in Lullingstone-park in Kent, the seat of Sir Percival Dyke, Bart., a thunderstorm burst upon me whilst fishing on the lake. I had had but indifferent sport previously, but no sooner had the storm broke than the fish began to rise eagerly at the fly. These two exceptions, with one other which occurred in Iceland, are the only ones I can remember during a period of nearly twenty years' experience. So much, then, for the right day and the wrong one for fly-fishing.

And now a word anent evening fishing. This time of the day is a very precious one to the fly-fisher during the months of June, July and part of August, as at that period, after hot sultry days, the fish begin to feed. Large flies and moths are then in request, a list of which will appear in a future chapter devoted entirely to flies. But I am sorry to say that a system has of late crept in, not only destructive to all fair fishing, but also derogatory to the real sportsman, and very injurious to the river—I mean *night fishing*. In the evening, that is to say from six until eight, the usual day flies,

occasionally varied, can be used, and towards sundown, in the short space of time between it and twilight, or real "*atra nox*," as Virgil has it, the angler must make use of the moth, or a cast of larger flies ; but no sooner does he become aware that he cannot see his line, or the rise of a fish, than he ought at once to put up his tackle and go home. Fishing at night is simply poaching, for two reasons : in the first place you cannot see your fish rise, and consequently must be entirely guided by feeling ; and, in the second place, I defy any man, be he ever so clever, to hook and land more than one fish out of every six he rises or touches. Moreover, you fish down stream, and in the dark you lose all the delight of seeing your fish rise, and of dropping your fly on to him. What is the consequence ? All the good fish are made shy, and refuse to look at a fly, by this very pernicious system. You feel a fish, and in nine cases out of ten you strike, either too soon, hooking him slightly and scaring him, or too late, and losing him. It is a mere question of chance, very often the fish being hooked foul, or you cannot see where he goes if you do hook him.

All is in the dark—a fitting position for such poaching work. It is at this time the large fish come out to feed; and, if you scare them, how can you expect them ever to look at a fly? I never would permit anyone to fish upon any water of mine after twilight. Evening fishing is a very delightful recreation; but no sooner does it get too dark for you to fish up stream, or see your fish rise, than you ought at once to leave off. Many a good trout stream is being spoilt by this practice; and gladly do I raise my weak voice against it, in the hopes that other more accomplished brothers of the rod than myself may aid in putting down what, at best, is a childish amusement.

The varieties of the moth species upon which trout feed, are naturally circumscribed, being confined to those species whose nature and habits lead them to choose the vicinity of water for their abode. Of these species I have never been able to ascertain more than twelve upon which trout really feed. Out of these there are but two that are local celebrities, the remainder being general flies. The following is a list of them:—The

White Moth, the Mealy Moth, the Ghost Moth, the Bank Moth, the Reed Moth, the Manyplume Moth, the Black Moth, the Vaporor Moth, the Gamma Moth, the Coachman Moth (local), the Sulphur Moth (local), and the Nobbler Moth.

The way I imitate them will be found under the head of "Evening Flies" in the chapter on that subject.

No doubt there are other species than these, but at present I have not discovered them. With the twelve above-mentioned I have ever had good success, together with the Alder, the Sand-fly, the Stone-fly, Hofland's Fancy, dressed large, and the Red Spinner.

Evening fishing is confined almost entirely to flats or the thin water at the tail of pools, as at the time of the year when it is most in vogue—viz., the hot summer months, such as June, July, and August—the fish in the evening leave the streams, falling back to the tails of pools, fords, and close to the banks. They are especially to be met with where one side of a stream is well wooded, and where the foliage which overhangs the water is sure to contain such food. Great

nicety is requisite in the casting of your line, and lightly should the flies fall upon the water. The large flies necessarily make more disturbance when they alight; but if this be properly managed, it serves more to attract the notice than scare the fish.

After a cold or blustering day fish do not rise well at the fly in the evening, whereas a hot sultry one is a sure sign of evening success. As the sun has an effect upon day fishing, so has the moon a large share in evening performances. When the moon is at her full is the very worst time for evening fishing, but as she gradually recedes to half, and from half to a quarter, so the take improves—the best time being the “dark” of the moon, or when she is invisible. Should the angler, however, perceive a mist rising in the valley, or about the banks of a stream he intends fishing on, wreathing in vapoury clouds over the surface of the water, he may save himself the trouble of putting his rod together, for not a fish will he stir. I have observed this also with salmon fishing, but have never been able to account for the effect it has,

for on a foggy or misty day I have always been successful; but on such an evening, when for the first half hour fish have been feeding freely, rising at the evening flies and midges, no sooner did the white vapoury fog commence to rise than they almost immediately stopped. This is another enigmatic atmospheric cause, whose solution we have not yet arrived at.

Your tackle should be just as fine for evening fishing as any other, for it is ridiculous to suppose that a trout can see less plainly than in the daytime; you should, if possible, be even more careful, as it is at this time that the large and wary fish begin to feed. I know of no fish whose instincts are so keenly alive to the fear of man as a large trout; he seems to have gathered experience with his years, although it is not necessary that a trout should have lived to any very great age to attain size. The growth of trout entirely depends upon the waters they inhabit and the quantity of food they obtain. Food is to a fish, as to every other creature in this world, be it man or beast, the great secret. A half-starved child never thrives, and, if I may

be permitted the simile, neither does a badly-fed fish. My attention has of late years been drawn more particularly to this most important subject, through the advantage I have had in a friendship with Mr. Francis Francis. It was by having access to his very cultivated mind and keen powers of observation that I have often had my attention drawn to causes and effects which would otherwise have passed unnoticed. From these remarks, then, I need hardly point out to my readers the natural inference to be drawn—viz., that the artificial propagation of fish in our streams is a very stupendous advantage, for their wants can be attended to by man, and that not by supplying them with food foreign to their tastes, but simply with what Nature has provided for their use; and care can be taken that they obtain this requisite nourishment, by the removal of such obnoxious insects, animals, and others of their species from their vicinity, who would otherwise feed upon what should be their subsistence, or reduce the food to an insufficiency to promote their natural or healthy growth. We know by experience, and through the medium of the

microscope, the minute particles and the various insects that are contained in a drop of water. These being spread over a large portion in the same ratio, give so many insects or substances in a pool of water containing, say, for example, six trout. Now this pool of water, in addition to what it intrinsically contains, also affords these six trout so much insect food, always keeping in view, that what the air or atmosphere is to man and beast, so is the water to the fish. If, then, twelve trout are placed in this pool, which contains only enough sustenance for six, the result will be, that what is enough for six is only half enough for twelve, and consequently they will be small, and thrive badly. This is the true reason why waters that are overstocked never contain large fish, and also accounts for the smallness, generally speaking, of the trout in Wales, some parts of Scotland, Devonshire, and Cornwall, where a two-pound trout is a *rara avis*, and a one-and-a-half pound a monster.

I have said that trout at certain times refuse flies, and have recourse to other resources for nourishment. It would be impossible—indeed

unnecessary for the object which this book has in view—for me to detail minutely what these resources are; but, besides the worm and the minnow, I may mention one which, when properly developed, will open a new feature in fly-fishing—I mean water-beetles. There are also caterpillars, the chrysalides of various ephemera, the spider (black and red), the caddis, &c. &c. I have already used several imitations of water-beetles with success, and I imagine that the Palmer flies are more often taken by the trout for water-beetles than caterpillars, as some authorities have it.

The beetles I have used are the little blue beetle, to be found in hundreds on the alder bushes, and the little bronze and red beetle, to be found, the one on the shingle, the other among reeds and long grass.

I dress the Blue Beetle as follows: Hook, No. 9 or 10; body made from blue tinsel, dressed small at the tail, and wound round and round the shank of the hook as you get near the shoulder, to increase its size; legs, a soft black hackle; head, two turns of black ostrich.

Red Beetle : Hook, No. 8 ; body, red tinsel, as before ; legs, a furnace hackle : head made with two or three turns of black ostrich.

Bronze Beetle : Hook, No. 10 ; body, dark copper-coloured tinsel, with a tuft of olive brown mohair left at the tail, just visible under the tinsel ; legs, a blood red hackle ; head made with two turns of black ostrich.

These three patterns I found very good on some Irish rivers, a few English and Scotch streams, and very killing on continental waters.

CHAPTER V.

A few useful hints on the tying of trout-flies—The imitation of the natural insect—A list of flies from March to September—Evening flies—Lake and pond flies.

IT is an opinion very much in vogue that the tying of trout flies is an unnecessary labour for the angler to undertake, and that he can supply his wants much more conveniently at a tackle-maker's by the purchase of what he requires. I am, however, of a very different opinion; for, independent of my remarks anent tackle-makers in a former chapter, I contend that no man can call himself an angler who cannot himself imitate the natural fly by a skilful combination of artificial materials; added to this there is nothing so grateful to the true angler as the fact, that his own handiwork has not only lured the most cautious of fish, but that he is independent of everyone, and the manufacturer of his own tackle. Furthermore, it is *absolutely necessary*, to insure complete success, that a man

should tie his own flies, in order to imitate as closely as possible the animals he sees upon the water upon which the trout are feeding. A knowledge of fly-tying is, therefore, necessary to all who desire to become adepts in the art. A large stock of flies is very useless, as they do not improve by keeping, and the gut upon which they are dressed gets rotten ; a limited supply for immediate use is what I recommend, and that they be kept in a tin box in preference to a book, so that the flies may not get crushed, or the hooks rusted. Never throw away an old fly, as fish will often take it in preference to a new one.

The art of fly-making does not depend entirely upon the mere manipulation of the art, though it is requisite to a certain extent to tie *neatly* as well as *firmly*. The mechanical part of tying flies is, as I said before, very easily acquired in three, or, at the outside, four lessons from any professional fly-tyer, at five shillings or two and sixpence per lesson ; but what the angler cannot learn from him is, the various colours and mixtures which will assimilate as nearly as possible to nature, and the choice of dyes and

feathers to be used as ingredients. This is entirely left to the natural talent of the angler, and to his resources and powers of invention; and in this talent lies the *true secret* of success, for the angler can have no better pattern than nature to guide him, and with wools, feathers, and floss silks, he can produce imitations good enough to deceive any fish, more especially when assisted by the influence of wind and weather. In order however to furnish something of a guide to my readers of my method of proceeding, and taking for granted that they have acquired the mechanical portion of fly-tying, I shall give a few of the more common patterns, and my method of imitating them.

One great rule to be remembered at starting is that those water larvæ that belong to the genus "*Ephemera*" are transparent-bodied flies, and that their delicate and transparent hues are best imitated by mixtures of fur or mohair; such are the Duns of various hues, the March Brown, and the Red Spinner; whilst the opaque-bodied flies, such as the Alder, the Stone-fly, or Orange-fly, are best represented with silks. As regards

wings, the Ephemera flies have for the most part upright wings, and the imitation must be dressed accordingly. Some people commence with the wing or hackle first, finishing their flies at the bend, whilst others commence at the bend and finish at the shank end. I find that a buzz fly is best tied by commencing with the hackle and finishing at the bend of the hook; and with winged flies, by putting the wings on last. Next, remember that your silk is well waxed—this is a great consideration—and always whip your gut on to the hook with stouter silk than you tie with.

The mixture of your colours, as far as furred-body flies are concerned, is also important. I do it in the following manner: Having selected the shades I intend mixing together, I take a pair of scissors and snip them into small lengths, at the same time mixing them through with my fingers. You must keep on mixing until each shade is thoroughly blended and not left in lumps or spots; then roll the colour so mixed together, and hold it up to the light, slightly wetting beforehand, to see if you have

the proper shade. It must be remembered that in the subjoined list I do not pretend to give every fly that each month affords, nor for one moment to describe every insect which belongs to our two great divisions—viz., *Mandibulata*, or chewers; and *Haustellata*, or suckers—for the limits of this work would not permit it; but the few flies I have picked out may be relied upon, and I humbly trust my imitations of them may meet with approval. I have stuck as close to nature as the materials for fly-making will permit me, and have utterly repudiated many acknowledged patterns, from their very bad imitation of the insect which they are intended to represent.

FLIES FOR MARCH.

The Red Fly.—The month of March is the commencement of the fly-fisher's season, for it is then that trout are getting into condition and rising eagerly at surface food. The flies for this month will depend very much upon the state of the weather, if it be mild or otherwise. If a very frosty spring, with cold and raw winds, the angler will find that the various species of

water insects are somewhat late in their appearance; but, under any circumstances, he will find two flies always on the water—viz., the Red fly (or, as it is sometimes called, the February Red), and the Blue Dun. As I restrict myself to homely expressions in these pages, I omit giving the technical or scientific name of the Red fly, as I do not consider it by any means necessary that the angler should be acquainted with such phraseology, nor that it makes any difference whether he calls it Red fly, February Red, or Old Joan, by all which names it is known, provided he knows the insect when he sees it, and is able to imitate it.

Having, then, placed the natural fly before us, we perceive that its body is of an orange colour, inclined to claret, brown towards the thorax; that its legs are a reddish brown, and its wings a transparent sort of light brown colour. Take a hook and measure it alongside the natural fly in order to get the right size, and, having whipped on your gut with stout silk, make the body thus:

Winged Fly.—Snip some dark hare's-ear fur and claret mohair together, mix well, and whip round half the body, finishing the remainder

with orange floss silk ; legs, a dark red hackle, with the end of it black, and only *three* turns of the hackle, so that the first turn shall consist of the red fibres, and the next two of the black fibres of the hackle ; wings are best represented by two small grizzled hackles dressed flat. Be sure that they are not too spotted, and are of a dirty grey colour. I prefer the fly, however, dressed thus : Body, orange floss silk ribbed with bronze peacock harl, over which a blood-red hackle from bend to point ; the fly to be dressed with brown silk. This fly is a capital grayling fly, and is a rare killer of trout.

The Bumble Fly.—This fly is the only fancy pattern I possess in my list, but I am forced to acknowledge its superiority, as I have rarely found it fail me. I am indebted for the patterns to Mr. Eaton, of Starkholmes.

No. 1. Body claret, floss silk, ribbed with bright peacock harl, and a honey dun hackle over it.

No. 2. Orange floss silk body, ribbed with bronze peacock harl, and a pure blue dun hackle over it.

No. 3. Body, ruby-coloured floss silk, ribbed with bronze peacock harl, and a dark dun hackle over it.

No. 4. Orange floss silk body, ribbed with bright green peacock harl, and a bright red hackle over it.

This is a grand fly, and, when properly made use of, never fails. Hooks, Nos. 9, 10, and 11, sneck-bend.

The Blue Dun, or Hare's-ear and Yellow.—As before, regulate the size of your hook to the size of the natural insect. This being an ephemeral fly, the wings are dressed upright; body, hare's-ear from the dark part, mixed with yellow-green mohair, hare's-ear preponderating; rib with bright yellow silk, and pick out the dubbing for legs; tail, two fibres of a bluish hackle; wings, from the quill feather of the corn bunting. Mr. Ogden dresses this fly better than any man in England. Remember, the dressing of the body should be no larger than the natural fly.

The Red Spinner.—Body, thin and long, made of bright red-brown floss silk, ribbed with yellow silk; legs, three turns of a dusky red cock's hackle; wings, from an old cock starling's quill

feather, choosing the lightest part ; the wings to be dressed upright ; tail, two strands of a cock's hackle.

The Little Chap.—This is a very good and useful little fly, and is best dressed buzz fashion, in the following manner : Body, peacock harl, with black ostrich mixed together, or a hackle of each wound together ; this forms the body. When made and fastened off, take a pair of scissors and snip the fibres of the hackles all round ; then use either a black hackle or a sooty hackle at the shoulder—four turns at the outside. This fly is always best as the bobfly on the cast.

The March Brown.—This is a fly very much in vogue amongst anglers, and is dressed in various ways. It does not appear until the end of March, and is a fine large ephemeral insect. I have used this fly with success as late as the month of August, and have taken grayling with it in the months of November and December. I imitate it in the following manner :

“ Male Fly.”—Hare's fur from the poll and face, mixed with olive-green mohair, and ribbed with brown silk. Be careful in mixing this

colour. Towards May put a tinge of yellow mohair through it. Legs, a dark woodcock's hackle, three turns; wings, upright from a hen pheasant's wing feather (be careful and pick out the exact shade); tail, two strands of partridge hackle; size of hook, according to fly, as before.

"Female Fly."—Body of olive-green mohair, slightly tinged with yellow, and ribbed with fine gold thread; wings, upright, as in the male; legs, a golden dun hackle, three or four turns; tail, from the same. I also use it very frequently dressed in this way: Body, as in the male, ribbed with light green floss silk and a hackle from the mottled back feather of the partridge. A rare fly for rough water.

FLIES FOR APRIL.

The month of April brings in a larger assortment, although many of the before-mentioned patterns will still kill, especially the Bumble and Red fly.

The Alder.—This fly must be dressed according to where it is found, as it is different in colour and size on many rivers. Where the waters are

large and open it runs small, but on brooks it is a large heavy insect, nearly as large as the Stone fly. I imitate it as follows: Body, dark orange floss silk, over which is spun a dark claret-coloured mohair mixed with black, the black tinge being very slight, and using less of the dubbing as you approach the tail; the floss silk must be seen through the dubbing, except about the thorax; legs, a sooty dun hackle inclining to black; wings, from the mallard, inclining to reddish brown, to be dressed long and flat; tail, two short strands of a soft black hen's hackle. This fly comes towards the end of the month, but sooner if the weather is warm.

The Stone Fly.—Body, red fur from the hare's neck, plentifully mixed with orange mohair and a little dark brown mohair, ribbed with bronze peacock harl, leaving most orange at the tail; legs, a dark grizzled hackle; wings, from a light hen pheasant's wing feather, dressed long and flat, and inclining to a red colour; tail, two strands from a partridge hackle.

The Sand Fly.—Body, hare's fur from the poll, with a little green mohair sprinkled through, and

ribbed with orange silk; legs, a ginger hackle; wings, from the light feather of the partridge tail, slightly mottled. This is the winged pattern. I, however, always use it thus: Body as before, with the red covert feather of the land-rail's wing used for a hackle and wings. This is a rare evening fly.

The Yellow Dun.—This is a beautiful ephemera, and a first-rate fly when the fish are taking it. The following pattern is a great favourite with grayling: Body, light yellow mohair mixed with greenish-yellow mohair, and a very little blue monkey's fur mixed through, just to give it a bluish tinge, and tied with pale yellow silk; legs, a pale yellow dun hackle; wings, the lightest portion of a young starling's wing feather. I frequently use it buzz fashion, when I dress the body as before, but put two turns of silver wire and a dotterel's hackle at shoulder. This is what is called the Dotterel fly. It is called in Ireland the "Gosling."

The Iron Blue Dun is another ephemera, which sometimes covers the streams in April. It is dressed thus: Body, blue mole's or monkey's

fur, with a tinge of dark hare's ear through it, and ribbed with pale blue silk; wings, from the breast of a water-hen, or from the tail of a young wood-pigeon, picking out the exact shading; legs, a pale iron blue hackle; tail, two strands of a grizzled hackle.

The Sedge Fly.—I give this fly, but it is by no means a general one, being seldom met with: Body, from a yellow weazel, mixed with a little brownish-grey fur, and ribbed with fine gold wire; legs, a dusky red hackle; wings, a land-rail's wing feather.

The Black Gnat.—Body, black silk, over which, at the thorax, is spun a little blue-black mohair; legs, two turns of a soft black hen's hackle; wings, a dark starling's wing feather.

FLIES FOR MAY.

The Oak Fly, or Down-looker.—If I have a favourite I think it is this one, and a rare fly it is. When it first comes upon the water the fish take it very greedily. I fish with it all through the summer, and use it on bright days with considerable success: Body, orange floss silk, ribbed

with fine black ostrich ; legs, a furnace hackle ; wings, from the hen pheasant, picking out the exact shade, tied with brown silk.

The Furnace Fly, or Orange Fly.—Body, orange floss silk, ribbed with green peacock harl, and a furnace hackle wound twice round. A rare fly for low water, and special favourite with grayling, particularly on Continental streams.

The Fern Fly, sometimes called the Soldier.—This is a fine showy fly, killing well in coloured water : Body, orange floss silk, with a little dubbing spun over at the shoulder from the hare's neck ; legs, a bright red soft hackle from a hen's breast, two or three turns ; under wings, a few strands from the starling ; over wings, some strands from the partridge's tail.

The Turkey Brown.—Body, dark brown silk, ribbed with purple silk ; wings, the mottled feathers of the partridge's tail ; legs, a red cock's hackle ; tail, two strands of the same.

FLIES FOR JUNE.

This being the month for the May fly, the fly-fishers naturally take more to this killing

bait. There is, however, a useful little Dun called

The Orange Dun. — Body, orange mohair, ribbed with slate-coloured silk ; legs, a dark dun hackle ; wings, from a tomtit, very light and pale.

The Dark Mackerel. — I am indebted for this imitation to Mr. Ronald, who ties this fly better than any of his other patterns, many of which are very wide from nature : Body, dark mulberry floss silk, ribbed with gold twist ; tail, three rabbit's whiskers ; wings, from the brown mottled feather which hangs from the back of the mallard over the wing ; legs, a purple-dyed hackle, appearing black when looked down upon, but a tortoiseshell hue when held up to the light.

FLIES FOR JULY AND AUGUST.

Next in order to these flies come the Pale Evening Dun, the July Dun, the Frog-hopper, the Red Ant, the August Dun, and the Cinnamon fly. As I said before, these are not all, but they are the principal ones, and serve to illustrate my object. Of these I wish to pick out two,

and give my method of dressing them, as they are always killers, when used at the proper time—viz., when the fish are feeding upon them.

The Frog-hopper, or Wrentail Fly.

No. 1. Body, light green silk, ribbed with gold twist; legs and wings, a wren's tail wound on as a hackle.

No. 2. Body, orange floss silk; legs and wings, as before.

No. 3. Body, brown mohair, ribbed with gold twist; legs and wings, as before.

The August Dun.—Body, brown mohair, with a little hare's-ear mixed through and ribbed with yellow silk; legs, a grouse hackle, very little mottled, and as brown as possible; wings, from any brown feather sufficiently soft in the fibre.

Let me once more recapitulate what I have said on the subject of fly-tying—that, by sticking as close to nature as possible, and also as to the natural size of the insect, as regards the the hook which is used in its artificial formation, the only true success can be achieved. Place

the insect before you—never mind the patterns I have given you, or those of anyone else, for they are all to be improved upon—and tie your fly, using those colours that you fancy will represent best the live example you are copying from.

Some rivers possess local favourites which can easily be ascertained upon inquiry, but you generally find the Duns will kill anywhere, as also the Red fly, the Furnace, and the Bumble. Some people, no doubt, will be surprised at the small list of flies I have mentioned, and that amongst them I have not noticed the Hare's-ear Dun, the Cock-a-Bonddhu, or any of the Palmers. My reasons are manifold. First, that I have furnished this list simply as a guide to my principle of tying flies from nature; secondly, because, as regards the Cock-a-Bonddhu, the Furnace or the Bumble in my opinion far surpass it; thirdly, because it would fill a large-sized volume to describe all the different sorts of water insect upon which trout feed; fourthly, because I use the hare's-ear as an ingredient in almost all my ephemeral flies; and, lastly, as regards Palmers,

I have little or no faith in them, with the exception of the Soldier Palmer, which is a good fly on certain waters and at certain times. I dress it thus: Body, red floss silk, closely ribbed with bronze-coloured peacock harl, and fine gold wire, with a double furnace hackle struck from the shoulder to the tail. This is an excellent fly for grayling. Hooks, Nos. 9, 10, and 11.

A word more ere I leave this important subject. Nothing but practice will give success. There is nothing so difficult as to tie a neat fly, but a little perseverance will soon give all the requisite neatness. To tip the heads of your flies, dissolve in spirits of wine, with a little shellac, as much black sealing-wax as will thicken the fluid, and when you have finished off the head of the fly, and fastened off the tying silk, touch it with this composition.

CHAPTER VI.

Evening flies, and how to dress them—Blow-line fishing—
Dipping or dapping—Other kinds of bait—Minnow-
fishing for trout.

IN a former chapter I gave a list of evening flies, composed of twelve different sorts or species; but, previous to laying my mode of imitating these before the reader, I would fain preface what I have to say by a few hints on the *modus operandi*.

Evening fishing is an excessively interesting portion of the art of fly-fishing, and one that requires no little address. I have already mentioned what I mean by the term *evening* fishing, as to when it commences, and when it ought to leave off; I will not therefore recur to this, but add that it offers three very great inducements to the angler, inasmuch as, first, at this time the large fish feed; secondly, it occurs at a season of the year when it is the only time of the twenty-four hours in which a man has the

chance of taking a fish ; and, lastly, because the time devoted to it is necessarily so short that one does not become satiated—on the contrary, the next opportunity is always looked forward to with unabated desires. Unlike fishing in the daytime, the resort of the evening fisher should be on still, deep flats—especially those that have a shelving bank overhanging a deep on the one side—or the thin, smoothly-flowing water at the tails of pools. Instead of fishing up stream, fish *opposite* to you, and stand away from the bank ; do not attempt to strike till you see *the line tighten*. Throw over every rising fish, as on a good evening they are sure to come ; and remember to make good use of your time, as the minutes are not many.

In the month of July, after a very warm day, a cast of midge flies before the sun sets is often very effective ; I will, therefore, give a cast of midge flies which I invariably use for this purpose, before proceeding with the moths.

No. 1 (or for the point fly). On a No. 14 sneak-bend hook, two turns of hare's-ear dubbing spun on yellow silk, with a

small red hackle wrapped *twice* at the shoulder.

No. 2. Body, greenish-yellow mohair two turns, spun on orange silk; legs and wings, two turns of a small blue hackle taken from a tomtit. Hook, No. 14, sneck-bend.

No. 3. Body, light green floss silk; legs and wings, two turns of a small tail feather from the wren. Hook, No. 14, sneck-bend.

With these three flies I have had good sport, especially in Ireland; on the Colne, Loddon, Itchin, and Test, in England; and on the Don and the Tweed and some of the border streams in Scotland. They only last about one hour, or two at the outside. For evening fishing have two or three casts ready to put on, as changing a fly in the uncertain light wastes valuable time.

The White Moth.—Body, white Berlin wool, short and full; legs, *two* turns of a white hen's hackle; wings, from the quill feather of a white pigeon. Hook, No. 8 sneck-bend.

The Mealy Moth. — Body, light chocolate

coloured Berlin wool, short and full; legs, two turns of a very light sooty hackle; wings, a white feather dipped in onion-dye. Hook, No. 7 and 8 sneck-bend.

The Ghost Moth.—This moth is found in great quantities in the long grass on the river's side, it is dressed thus: Body, grey fur or mohair, ribbed with red silk, dressed full; legs, a light dun hackle; wings, a white feather from either hen or pigeon. Hook, No. 8 sneck-bend.

The Bank Moth.—Body, yellowish fur from the hare's poll, mixed with a little red mohair, dressed full; legs and wings, a light speckled partridge hackle. This is a grand fly, and a great favourite. Hook, No. 9 sneck-bend.

The Reed Moth.—Body, white floss silk; wings, a white pigeon's quill feather; legs, a bright red hackle. Hook, No. 10 sneck-bend. A capital fly.

The Many-plume Moth.—Body, white wool; legs, and wings a soft white hackle. Hook, No. 11 sneckbend.

The Black Moth.—Body, black mohair, ribbed with bronze peacock harl; legs, a soft black hackle;

wings, the darkest part of an old cock-starling's wing feather. Hook, No. 8 sneck-bend.

The Vaporor Moth.—Brown silk body, ribbed with yellow thread; legs, a furnace hackle; wings, from a hen pheasant's feather. Hook, No. 9 sneck-bend.

The Gamma Moth.—Body, grey pig's-wool, ribbed with brown silk; legs, a grizzled hackle; wings, from the mottled tail feather of the partridge. Hook, No. 8 sneck-bend.

The Coachman.—This is a local fly, being used principally on the rivers in the neighbourhood of London: Body, bronze peacock harl; legs, a bright red hackle; wings from a white hen's feather. Hook, No. 11 sneck-bend.

The Nobbler Moth.—Body, equal parts of fur from the hare's poll, grey pig's-wool and blue monkey mixed well together; legs, a ginger hackle; wings, from the hen pheasant. Hook, No. 7 sneck-bend.

The Sulphur Moth.—Body, light yellow mohair ribbed with red silk; legs and wings, a soft hackle, dyed yellow, and struck from head to tail. Hook, No. 10 sneck-bend.

The Sand-fly I have already described ; it is always a good evening fly, but I find that it varies much in size, according to the waters it is found on. In the early spring, too, insects of this species are larger than those which come out later on in the season. For Irish and Scotch rivers, the Rail and Grouse Hackles dressed on Nos. 8 and 9 sneck-bend hooks, buzz fashion, with floss silk bodies of different colours, are very good evening flies.

The next portion of my subject which claims attention is that which is comprehended under the term "Blow-line fishing;" and, although I do not consider this strictly fair fishing, yet, as it is so much in vogue, and is used nearly everywhere, I will devote a few words to it.

The Blow-line consists of a skein of white floss silk, which is whipped on to the reel-line. I, however, prefer a dirty green colour to white, as it is less easy of detection. To the floss silk I attach two lengths of the finest gut, which have been soaked in oil for at least twenty-four hours. One length of gut is whipped on to the other end of the floss silk, whilst the other length is tied on

about twelve inches above it. On to each length of gut are whipped two No. 14 sneck-bend hooks, tied back to back, with green tying silk, and your blow-line is complete. The rod I use for this fishing is as follows: The top joint should be about five feet long, of the usual material used for the tops of fly-rods; it should be ringed with *standing rings*, of sufficient size to permit the line to run easily through; the other two joints should be made of *hard yellow deal*, five feet each in length, and also ringed with standing rings. The total length, it will be seen, will be fifteen feet. These rods also do admirably for minnow or worm fishing, of which more hereafter. The flies used for blow-line fishing are not confined to the Green or Grey Drakes, but the following may also be used with advantage: The Alder, the Stone-fly the March Brown, the Sand-fly, the Sedge, the Blue Bottle, the Oak-fly, the common house-fly and the Wasp-fly. The method of putting them on the hooks is as follows: Take the fly by the wings, as carefully as possible, and insert the point of the hook under the wings, driving it through the thorax, bringing it out at

the other side; then take a second fly, and bait the other hook in a similar manner, placing the heads of the flies in opposite directions. The flies of the smaller species should be collected in a bottle with a large quill driven through the cork; the bottle should be covered with black paper or cloth to exclude the light; and when the orifice is opened the flies will come to the light one by one. For the larger species, such as the Drakes, the Stone-fly, and Alder, provide a round tin box with a hole cut in the top, over which should be glued a muslin bag of two or three inches long, drawn together at the mouth.

Blow-line fishing is a very deadly method of taking fish, since the natural insect is always the most attractive, particularly when it is alive. The still deeps or flats are the places for such fishing, the rough streams taking your flies under water. Lakes and ponds are ever best, although on large rivers, especially those where the banks are heavily wooded, I have had grand sport.

My reason for soaking my gut in oil is, that it floats on the water, and assists the flies to do so

also. It is not a bad plan to whip a small piece of cork to the shanks of the hooks, which also assists the floating.

The great art in blow-line fishing is to imitate as closely as possible the movements of the natural insect. One should not entirely depend on a breeze of wind, as some assert, for this fishing, for with the rod I have mentioned you can cast an insect to a distance of fifteen or twenty yards without the least injury to it. In striking your fish be very careful, as the tackle will not stand much violence. Play your fish with the greatest care, following him, as soon as you have hooked him, wherever he goes, rather than giving him line.

This sort of fishing should, however, never be resorted to except in the warmer months, such as June and July, and even then I would fain dispense with it, were it not that others will not be satisfied to use artificial means, and an artificial insect in such weather and water as one finds in these months has a poor chance against the natural fly.

Dipping or Dapping. — Is another sort of

angling with the natural fly, but very inferior in point of sport to blow-line fishing. The baits are the same as before ; but here the angler finds himself with a short rod and a line of the same length, making holes through bushes, dropping his fly, for he can only fish with one, within a yard of the bank, and, when the fish is hooked, main strength is all that is required to draw him out. In well-wooded streams, however, it is the only way of fishing, especially when the stream is narrow, and the proximity of trees prevents the casting a fly or throwing any length of line ; but the absence of any requisite skill in its manipulation makes it, in my opinion, a very poor apology for sport.

There are various other baits in use for the capture of trout, a few of which I will mention. There is the Caddis, the Wasp Grub, the Ant's Egg, the Caterpillar, the Grasshopper, and Salmon Roe. All of these baits and the mode of using them, approximate far too much to bottom-fishing to have any attractions for me, and I will therefore not attempt to describe them, but pass on at once to the only sort of

angling after fly-fishing worthy of any notice, viz. :

Minnow Fishing.—This style of fishing is one that requires a great deal more skill and adroitness than most people fancy. By minnow fishing I do not mean “spinning” in the true acceptance of the word, or such a style of fishing as is used on the Thames or any of the larger streams. My style of fishing the minnow is totally different. Now if the revolving of the bait in the water be considered spinning, then naturally my mode of fishing the minnow comes under that head, but since I fish the minnow with a light fly-rod instead of a stiff one, since I have no lead on my traces, and cast my minnow like a fly instead of throwing the line off the winch; since in the places I choose for minnow-fishing, it would be next to impossible to spin, I may fairly say, that my method is different, and therefore requires a distinctive name. The one I call “spinning,” the other “fishing the minnow”—a distinction without a difference people will say; but, when they learn my idea of minnow-fishing, it will be seen that there does exist a very marked dissimi-

larity, although the bait is in both cases the same.

I will first commence with the tackle I use for this mode of fishing.

For some reason or other which I have never been able distinctly to find out, the generality of people imagine that it is requisite that tackle used for minnow-fishing should be extra strong, and the consequence is that, if you ask for a trace in nine fishing-tackle shops out of ten, you will get one as thick as a cart-rope, and you will be told that for the minnow the tackle must be extra stout. Why? is the very simple question; is it because the fish you take with the minnow are heavy? Then I say the more reason for fishing as fine as possible to deceive them. Is it because the minnow is so attractive a bait that the fish are less likely to look to what it is attached? I say, that trout never take a minnow for a fish in health; because, be as expert as you will, it is impossible to give a life-like look to a dead fish by artificial means, and if you spin too fast you will do no good; added to which, the powers of vision in fish are extraordinary, for the larger the

fish the more wary he is, and the more he exercises his instincts. No, I cannot for the life of me understand why this should be. I do not say that it is impossible to take a fish with a coarse contrivance, for it is, and has been done, but not in any quantity, especially when the fish are capricious. My tackle is composed of the very finest possible ingredients, viz. : very small hooks, the smallest swivels, and the very finest gut, at least that portion nearest to the bait, from which I taper it, increasing in thickness up to the winch line. I avoid all splices of silk, joining the gut with plain knots as before explained, and I take care that my hooks are bright ones instead of the usual blue colour, as this enhances the brilliancy of the bait.

My tackle is made thus : A No. 1 sneck hook is whipped with green silk on to a fine length of gut, and an eighth of an inch above it is whipped a No. 12 hook, for a lip hook. This is all, except when the fish are coming short, when I add a flying triangle of No. 12 hooks, which is slipped by means of a loop over the lip-hook, and taken on and off at pleasure.

Fig. 1 is the simple minnow-tackle ; Fig. 2 is the tackle with the flying triangle of No. 12 hooks attached ; Fig. 3 is the tackle baited ; and Fig. 4 is the trace.

FIG. 1.

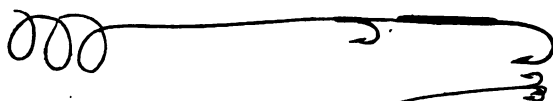


FIG. 2.

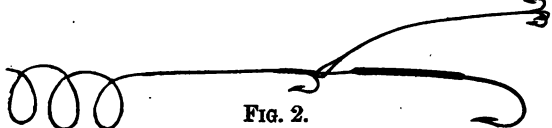


FIG. 3.

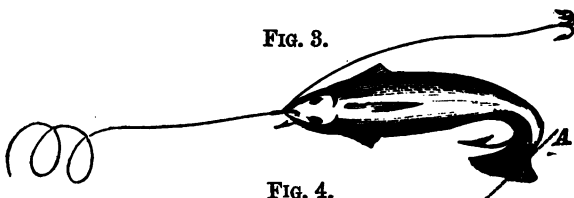
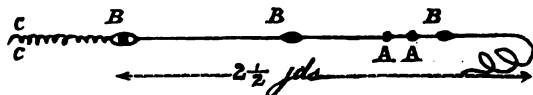


FIG. 4.



For minnow-fishing I never use any but bright, white-bellied minnows, about two inches or an inch and a half long ; these, previous to use, I put in bran, for the purpose of hardening them. The method of baiting the tackle is as simple as

it is expeditious. The minnow being taken between the finger and thumb, the large hook is inserted at the mouth, passed along the vertebræ, and brought out an eighth of an inch from the tail; the lip-hook is then inserted, and the tackle is ready. If the triangle be used, it must be slipped on before the lip-hook is inserted, the outer portion of the tail at the dotted line A being cut off. Fig. 4 is the trace, which is $2\frac{1}{2}$ yards long, and has *three* swivels, B, B, B. The trace is tapered, commencing with stoutish gut from the reel-line, c, c, and getting gradually finer and finer until it becomes as fine as a hair; the swivels to be kept in proportion—viz., the one at the juncture of the reel-line with the trace to be the largest, and so on. If there be a very *heavy deep* stream to fish, two No. 4 shot may be put on at A, A; but, generally speaking, the bait and the swivels are sufficient.

It must be held in mind that this tackle is what I use in quick running streams, such as those found in the North of England and on the Border, in Scotland, Ireland, and Wales. For sluggish waters, such as the Wandle, the Loddon,

the Itchin (in many parts), where, I am happy to say, the minnow is not permitted, this tackle would be next to useless; and although there are many, very many other patterns of tackle, I refrain from recommending them, because I do not wish to promote, but rather to discourage, minnow-fishing. I have merely mentioned this tackle, and I shall, in the next chapter, say a few words upon how to use it, because it is sometimes necessary to use the minnow in self-defence; for instance, you get a day's fishing on a stream, and on your arrival you find that two men have gone before you with the minnow. Now, fly-fishing after the minnow or worm is next to useless, and I would strongly advise anyone who is the possessor of a good trout stream never to permit anything else but the fly.

With regard to artificial baits, I look upon them as valueless in comparison to a natural one. A half-starved fish, here and there, may be deluded into taking one, but nothing like sport can ever be had with them. Fish go by smell, and this is the reason why a natural bait has such a supreme advantage over an

artificial one. I have seen trout follow an artificial minnow right across a stream, and turn back in apparent disgust; but put on a natural one, and before it is half-way across it is taken.

CHAPTER VII.


The way to fish the minnow—The best time and water—
The grayling and some of its habits, where to find and
how to take them—Grayling flies.

LET us suppose ourselves at the river's side, with a couple of dozen well-selected minnows (white-bellied ones) ready for use, and our rod put together—the same one as is used for fly-fishing, but with a somewhat stiffer top, and double-handed. Let us approach the stream carefully, and go at once to its head. It will be of course understood that in thus fishing the minnow it is requisite to fish down stream, in order that the force of the water, acting upon the curved tail of the fish, may make it revolve. Let out, to begin with, just as much line as the length of your rod, by dropping the minnow into the water, and slacking off the line from the winch as the water draws it away; then raise the top of your rod, and you will find that the resistance of the water against the bait bends the top

of the rod ; this acts as a spring upon the line. You then raise the point of your rod just as if you were about to cast your fly, and the spring on the line, together with a slight backward movement of the wrist, will shoot the bait out behind you. You must pause just sufficient time to be certain that the line is out to its farthest stretch, and then a gentle cast forward will drop it into the water without the least injury. With a little practice you can throw a minnow from fifteen to twenty yards, which is a length of line more than sufficient.

In fishing very narrow streams, the best plan is to drop your bait in at the top of the run, and after letting out a considerable portion of line, to walk down with it. When you see a fish coming, the excitement of the moment will make you strike. This you must never do, as he will often follow it across the stream right on to the shallows on your own side. Many trout are missed by striking, when fishing with the minnow, who would be brought to basket if they were permitted to hook themselves.

In fishing the minnow, you must cast the bait



to the opposite bank and a little above you, letting the stream carry it across to your own side without any movement of the rod ; then step a pace lower and repeat the cast, and so on until the stream has not sufficient force to spin the bait.

The very best water for such fishing is on the scours at the heads of streams, where you would fancy there was not sufficient water to cover a minnow ; but in such places, where the water is broken by stones, the large trout lie *in the daytime*, and there you will be sure to run many fish ; after this, the throat or neck of the stream, taking care always to drop your minnow as close to the opposite bank as is consistent with the safety of your tackle ; and for the rest, practice will make perfect.

The best time to fish the minnow is from ten till twelve, and from two or three in the afternoon until the evening fly comes on the water. Bright days, with low water and a scorching sun overhead, often prove red letter ones for this sort of fishing. Mr. Stewart, a very talented minnow fisher, approves of this weather beyond any other ; but there is a time when trout will

take the minnow, and that voraciously, which is just *before* a flood, when the water is beginning to turn white and the fish are on the move ; they then run well, and give capital sport ; also after the clearing of a freshet, when the water is still discoloured, in the months of July and August, the minnow will do great execution.

My principal objection to minnow-fishing is the quantity of fish that are hooked and scared, and the comparatively few that are brought to basket. Out of a dozen runs not above four fish will be bagged ; the rest will be frightened and refuse to feed, except at night, for some little time. The reason of this is, as I remarked above, from over anxiety in striking at the fish too soon, and the want of dexterity on the part of the angler. Minnow-fishing has come of late years very much into vogue, to the hindrance of fly-fishing ; still, on waters where proprietors and anglers appreciate the sport of fly-fishing, I am happy to say minnow-fishing is not permitted.

One word before I leave this subject. If a trout has even been hooked with an artificial

fly, or has risen two or three times without taking, you may rest assured that if you spin a minnow before his nose you will be sure to tempt him.


I once made a bet of a dozen of wine with a friend that I would kill three brace of trout, upon a certain piece of water, that should weigh 6lb, and not one of them was to be under $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. The water was excessively fine, and the fish few and far between; accordingly, I had to mark almost every fish down, and stick to him until I had him. I won my bet in the way above mentioned—viz., that after having tried him with a fly and *moved* him, I then took to the minnow, and on this occasion, in every instance, I took my fish.

I now pass on to the last portion of my subject: The way to angle with the fly for grayling, together with some of his habits and places of resort. This fish is a proof positive that the present century is not the only one in which fish acclimatisation has been studied, and put into practice. The grayling is not a native of the British Isles, which is proved from the fact that Scotland and Ireland are destitute of this beautiful

fish, and that it is only found in certain parts of England. Now, many, if not all, of the Scotch and Irish rivers are peculiarly adapted to grayling, except those very far north, for this fish requires a peculiar temperature of water, which should be as near as possible the mean temperature of the atmosphere.

"Ephemera" says "that this fish does not thrive in mountain streams, as they could never stem their rapid torrents, or surmount their natural obstacles;" also, "that they cannot bound out of the water, and never jump at a bait after the manner of a trout." I conclude that this talented angler has imbibed his experience from grayling such as he has seen them in the rivers of England; but as I have had the opportunity of studying their habits on the Continent, in their native waters, I can assure not only "Ephemera," but the angling public, that these ideas are very erroneous ones.

Almost all the mountain streams that are tributaries of the Rhine contain grayling in immense quantities, and forty or fifty fish a day is by no means an uncommon basket. Further,



I have watched grayling by scores springing out of the water in their endeavours to ascend a weir; and in hot close weather, before a thunder-storm, they may be seen doing the same thing on the streams, and that to a height of two feet. Further, I have continually caught grayling on the bob-fly, whilst it was overhanging the water, at which they have sprung; but it is true they do this unlike a trout, for they spring in a slanting direction. Furthermore, the streams of that mountainous country, the Tyrol, abound with grayling; and it is for this reason that I believe the Irish and Scotch waters would suit this fish, if they were properly introduced.

There is also an impression upon some people's minds that trout and grayling do not thrive together, and that the introduction of grayling into a stream is very much to the detriment of the trout. Surely this must be an error, for I have taken trout with small grayling in their maws, and have also watched them in a pool together, when the grayling have always taken very good care to keep clear of the trout. Very little is comparatively known of the habits of this

delightful fish, and much as I have sought to gain information, I am sorry to say that as yet I have made but little progress beyond what is already known. One thing, however, is patent to all who have ever enjoyed a day's grayling-fishing, be it at home in merry England, or on the swift running streams of the Continent; and that is, that he is only second to the trout, in that his efforts to get clear of his enemy are sooner over; but as he is generally taken in swiftly running streams, the rushing of such a body of water assists his struggles, and considerably aids the difficulty of his capture. Should this little work meet with the approbation of my brother anglers, I propose in a second edition to give a more extended account of my researches in this branch.

The grayling is in season, and fit to take, at that time of the year when a vacuum occurs for the fly fisher—viz., the months of September, October, November and December. In April and May they spawn, and rise very eagerly at the fly, but their condition is bad, and they are covered with lice and sores. Unlike the trout, they recover

very quickly their usual vigour, but are in the best condition in the month of October.

Grayling delight in very swiftly-running streams, where the water is from three to four feet deep, the neck and the water just above it being their favourite place of resort, the bottom of fine sand or loose gravel, with a little muddy *débris* scattered here and there. They are by no means a shy fish, and will rise at a fly although they have been hooked. I have seen a grayling rise thirteen times, one after the other, at a fly, having been hooked at the third cast, and eventually brought to basket. Their mouths are, however, excessively tender, and great care must be taken in the handling of them, as the hold easily gives way or wears out. The peculiar way in which they rise, and the quickness of their movements, often causes them to be hooked foul, when they naturally play very strong. Malformations in this fish are by no means unfrequent, a very curious specimen of which I sent to *The Field* office, where no doubt it is to be seen.

In fishing for grayling, I consider it very

unnecessary to fish up stream—first, because they are by no means a shy fish; and, secondly, because, in their favourite haunts, the strength of the stream is so great that your flies come back to you too soon to be of any service. I fish a stream for grayling, then, in the following way: I commence at the *end* of the swiftest portion of the stream, and cast exactly opposite to me, letting my flies float down below me, and I then go on, cast after cast, upwards, until I come to the head, always letting the flies float down to my own side. When a fish rises you must be very quick, but not too strong; a sharp movement of the wrist is all that is required. Should you miss your fish, if the water is rising, draw your line in about a foot and repeat the cast; if the water is falling, let out about a foot. When you have hooked your fish, be ready at once to give him line, and when *played out* keep his *head out of water*. The greatest number of rising fish will ever be found in the race of water at the head or neck of a stream, and in such places too much care cannot be taken when the fish is hooked, their mouths being so very

tender that the force of the stream, in addition to their own efforts, will frequently tear the hook away from its hold. For this reason I prefer sneck-bend hooks for grayling, as there is less play in the bend. Whilst on the subject of hooks, I cannot help mentioning that the best shaped hook that has as yet come under my notice is a specimen of a Japanese hook which was sent to *The Field*. Here the shank was not too long, and the bend of a sufficient and correct curvature, so that the fish, when once hooked, could not, by his efforts to get free, increase the size of the hole where the barb first penetrated.

In fishing for grayling it is a fatal mistake to use too long a line, as, indeed, it is with the trout. Men are very fond of talking of the length of line they can throw ; but the question is, *can they fish this length of line properly* when they have got it out ? There are more men who fish with a line under twenty yards than over, and if they can attain their object or reach their fish, I say *the shorter the line the better*. As soon as a grayling is hooked, unlike a trout, he remains as much in the same position as the strength of

the stream will allow, swaying his head from side to side, and lashing the water with his tail. It is at this moment you should drop your hand a very little to him, when you will find his inclination will be to run up stream. Always use your landing-net for grayling, and do not try to run them on shore or lift them out of the water.

The best and the right sort of weather for taking grayling is an enigma that I have not yet solved. On the most unlikely days I have filled my basket, whilst on the most promising I have scarcely had a rise. Again, in a bright sun, with the water low and clear, not a cloud in the sky, and without a breath of wind, I have taken between thirty and forty grayling in an afternoon, whilst with water slightly coloured, a dark day, and a south-westerly wind, I could scarcely stir a fish. What the reason of this is I cannot for a moment conjecture; it is, however, one of the studies in connection with this fish that is at present occupying my time. One thing, however, I have ascertained, and that is, that grayling are less inclined to move when water is rising than when it is falling. Low water is decidedly

the best, and a bright day by no means an unlikely one.

Grayling are taken with almost all the patterns of Duns that are used for trout-fishing. Unlike the trout, however, they are more guided by the appearance of the insect than whether it is on the water or not. I never use more than six patterns of grayling flies, and with these I have killed great quantities of grayling, and can safely recommend them to the reader. They are as follows: The Bumble (orange body), the Furnace, the Alder, the Red Spinner, the Fern-fly, and the Grasshopper. As I have already given all these patterns except the last, I need not repeat them, except that they should be dressed on small hooks (Nos. 11, 12, and 13, sneck-bend), as grayling prefer small flies. To these flies I add the Duns, but it is rarely the above patterns fail me.

The Grasshopper-fly.—This fly is an imitation of my own. The pattern I have presented to Mr. Ogden, of Cheltenham, who no doubt will tie it as he alone can. I am a very old fly-tyer (and Mr. Ogden is the only man who makes me a fly now), yet I would give a great deal to be

able to wing a fly as he does them. This fly is intended to represent the small green and brown grasshopper, and is also a good fly for trout.


No. 1. Body, yellow green floss silk, ribbed with yellow silk ; legs and wings, the bluish-green hackle from the breast of a love-bird. Hook, Nos. 11 and 12, sneck-bend.

No. 2. Body, yellow-green floss silk, ribbed with brown silk ; legs and wings, the brown and yellow mottled feather from the back of a love-bird. Hook, Nos. 11 and 12, sneck-bend.

Amongst the patterns I have mentioned, let me particularly call the reader's attention to the Furnace fly and the orange Bumble. I know of no two flies that can compete against these as grayling flies.

The blue, yellow, orange, grey, and ash-coloured Duns are also good, ribbed with gold or silver thread, and the Sand-fly will do execution towards twilight.

I have never taken a grayling over $1\frac{1}{4}$ lb, although I believe the Teme boasts of fish of twice that weight. The average size is from $\frac{1}{4}$ lb to $\frac{1}{2}$ lb, a 1 lb fish being only a casual capture.



The finest time of the year to take this fish is most decidedly October and November, and the time of day, between eleven and two o'clock—that is to say, provided the water is not white. A hard frost also is favourable to grayling fishing, and rather improves it.

Some people assert that grayling may be taken with the minnow, because one or two instances have occurred of his having been taken whilst spinning for trout. My impression is, that these fish merely made a dash at the attractive bait, not for the purpose of taking it, but because the grayling has a peculiar aversion to sick or maimed fish, taking every opportunity of tormenting them, and that on these occasions, in so doing, he got accidentally hooked.

At the end of this book I have furnished a list of those rivers of Germany that I have myself fished, and that are likely to afford the angler good grayling-fishing, with a fair sprinkling of trout.

And now my task is ended; and I launch my experiences upon the troubled seas of public opinion. To my brother anglers I look for

approbation, being confident that should these pages contain genuine information unadulterated by borrowed ideas, and based upon practical knowledge, I shall not have passed the hours that it has cost me in vain.

Much, very much, is to be done in this all-absorbing study; and as I lay down my pen I feel how utterly insignificant are my efforts, and how small the amount of knowledge I have gained, although so long a convert to the gentle art. To the young beginner let me give a piece of advice—never be above learning from anyone, and do not suppose that because you have fished the banks of a certain stream for five, ay, or even ten years, that you know all that is to be learnt: you must prosecute your researches to strange waters, which will prove to you the paucity of your knowledge, and stimulate you to greater efforts to acquire more.

As for references, the vast book of Nature is opened to you, and only asks you to exercise that power of observation which the Almighty has given into your charge, and which ranks itself as one of the most precious of talents.

APPENDIX.

LIST OF THE PRINCIPAL RIVERS IN GERMANY
WHERE TROUT AND GRAYLING FISHING IS TO
BE HAD; TOGETHER WITH THE BEST ROUTE
TO REACH THEM, AND THE BEST HOTELS.

ADENAU (Rhenish Prussia).—Post from Altenahr as
above. Hotel, Halben Mond, fair. Only a small
brook, but full of trout.

AHR (Rhenish Prussia).—Trout and Grayling. From
Cologne by rail to Remagen; by post or carriage to
Altenahr. Hotel, Gaspari, very good. Best fishing
from Dumpfenfeld to Schuld. A capital river.

AHRE (Rhenish Prussia). — From Altenahr to
Adenau by post. Trout; excellent fishing in spring.
Hotel, Halben Mond, very fair.

ALB (Baden). — Train to Karlsruhe, and carriage to
Ettlingen. Trout in large numbers, but small, owing
to the size of the water. This brook is preserved
by four gentlemen, but leave can easily be obtained.

ALSEN (Rhenish Prussia).—Rail from Bingen on the Rhine
to Kreuznach. Hotel, Hollande, very good. Fair
fishing two hours from Kreuznach.

BLANKENHEIMBACH (Rhenish Prussia).—Forms, with the Ahrrbach, the head waters of the Ahrr. Excellent trout-fishing in April and May. Must stop at Adenau, as above.

EPPSTEINBACH (near Wiesbaden).—Trout. Small inn on the river. Better to stop at Wiesbaden. Fairish fishing.

GLAUBACH.—To be fished from Kreuznach, which is reached as above. Very good trouting in its upper waters.

GOLDENBACH (Rhenish Prussia).—Carriage from Bingen on the Rhine to Stromberg. Hotel, Alten Kaizer, fair. Moderate fishing in spring.

KINSIG (Baden).—From Baden by train to Offenburg. Hotel, Fortuna, very good table; the landlord rents twenty miles of fishing, principally grayling. The best fishing on this river is above Biberach, which is reached by train from Offenburg; from this up to Walfach is the best water. In spring, however, there is fair fishing to be had at Offenburg.

KLEIN KYLL (Rhenish Prussia). — A tributary of the Lieser; to be fished at Wittlich, which is reached by post from Coblenz. Fair trout and grayling. The Lieser should also be fished from this spot.

KYLL (Rhenish Prussia).—One of the best trout streams in Germany; to be fished at Stadtkyll, Gerolstein, or Hillesheim, which places are reached by carriage from Adenau, at all of which there is excellent accommodation.

LAACHER ZEE.—A large sheet of water, containing pike, perch, bream, roach, and eels; excellent perch-fishing. Hotel, Maria Laach, very bad; this is reached from Remagen. Hotel, Carraciola or Furstenberg, Andernach or Brohl. I recommend stopping at Remagen.

MOSEL.—A fine stream, full of fish of various sorts. To lovers of bottom-fishing, or pike and perch-fishing, the best station is Bernkastel or Trier (Treves), by steamer from Coblenz. At Bernkastel, Hotel Drei Könige; and at Trier, Trierscher Hof is a good hotel, and the landlord will assist the angler.

MÜRG—This is one of the finest streams in South Germany, not having been cut straight for the floating of rafts. Best station, Gernsbach. Hotel, Pfeiffer, on the river bank, excellent and cheap. From Baden by carriage. Trout and grayling.

NAHE (Rhenish Prussia). — To be fished for trout or grayling from Oberstein; rail from Kreuznach. For bottom-fishing, from Kreuznach. Hotel at Kreuznach. Hotel, Hollande, excellent; rail from Bingen on the Rhine. Hotel at Oberstein. Hemdl Hotel very fair.

NETTE (Rhenish Prussia).—An excellent trout and grayling stream; to be fished from Mayen upwards. Hotel Müller very fair. Mayen is reached by post from Coblenz. Fish this river about Mayen.

PRÜM.—A very excellent stream. Excursions can be made from Trier, as above. Trout and grayling.

